

Austin visits in Kyiv in show of support

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine even as U.S. and international resources are stretched by the new global risks raised by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Austin, who traveled to Kyiv by train from Poland, met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov and was scheduled to meet with Chief of Staff Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

In Kyiv, Austin said Ukraine's effort to defeat Russia's invasion "matters to the rest of the world" and that U.S. support would continue "for the long haul."

Zelenskyy said Austin's visit was "a very important signal for Ukraine."

"We count on your support," Zelenskyy said, thanking Congress as well as the American

people for their backing.

This is Austin's second trip to Kyiv, but he's making it under far different circumstances, as the world's attention is drawn to the Middle East and signs of fatigue set in with the almost 21-month Russia-Ukraine war.

Austin's first visit occurred in April 2022, just two months after the start of the war.

At the time, Ukraine was riding a wave of global rage at Moscow's invasion, and Austin launched an international effort that now sees 50 countries meet monthly to coordinate on what weapons, training and other support could be pushed to Kyiv.

But the conflict in Gaza could pull attention and resources from the Ukraine fight. The U.S. has worked feverishly since the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel, and the weeks of devastating bombardment on Gaza by Israel that has followed, killing more than 10,000 civilians, to keep those attacks from turning

into a regional war.

The U.S. has already committed two carrier strike groups, scores of fighter jets and thousands of U.S. personnel to the Middle East, and has had to shift its force posture and conduct airstrikes against Iranian-backed militant groups that are now hitting U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria on a regular basis.

To date, Ukraine has received more than \$44 billion from the U.S. and more than \$35 billion from other allies in weapons, ranging from millions of bullets to air defense systems, advanced European and U.S. battle tanks and, finally, pledges for F-16 fighter jets.

But Ukraine still needs more, and after almost 20 months of shipping arms to Ukraine, cracks are beginning to show. Some European countries such as Poland have scaled back support, noting their need to maintain adequate fighting ability to defend themselves.

Ukrainian officials have

strongly pushed back on suggestions they are in a stalemate with Russia after a long-awaited counteroffensive over the summer did not radically change the battle lines on the ground. In a visit to Washington last week, Andriy Yermak, head of the president's office, provided no details but confirmed that Ukrainian forces had finally pushed through to the east bank of the Dnieper River, which has essentially served as the immovable front line between Ukrainian and Russian forces for months.

However, as winter sets in it will become more difficult for either side to make large gains due to ground conditions. That could further work against Ukraine if U.S. lawmakers perceive there's time to wait before more funds are needed. Ukraine and the U.S. expect that this winter Russia will go after Ukraine's infrastructure again, like the power grid, making air defenses critical.

Israel, militants battle near Gaza hospital as babies evacuated

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli forces pressed their offensive against Hamas in northern Gaza on Monday, battling militants around a hospital where thousands of patients and displaced people have been sheltering for weeks, raising Palestinian fears of another painful standoff and evacuation of a medical facility.

A medical worker inside the facility and the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said a shell struck the second floor of the Indonesian Hospital, killing 12 people. Both blamed Israel, which denied firing a shell at the

hospital, saying its troops returned fire on militants who had fired on them from inside the 3.5-acre compound.

The advance came a day after the World Health Organization evacuated 31 premature babies from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. At least 28 were transported to Egypt on Monday. More than 250 critically ill or wounded patients remain stranded at the compound that Israeli forces stormed days ago.

Marwan Abdallah, the medical worker at the Indonesian Hospital, said Israeli tanks were operating less than 200 yards from the hospital, and that Is-

raeli snipers could be seen on the roofs of nearby buildings.

Abdallah said the hospital had received dozens of dead and wounded in airstrikes and shellings overnight.

Health Ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qidra, who is based in southern Gaza, said some 600 patients, 200 health care workers and 2,000 displaced people are sheltering there. "The occupation aims to evacuate the hospital, as it did in Shifa," he said.

In a separate development that could relieve pressure on Gaza's collapsing health system, dozens of trucks entered

from Egypt on Monday with equipment from Jordan to set up a field hospital. Jordan's state-run media said the hospital in the southern town of Khan Younis would be up and running within 48 hours.

Babies evacuated from Shifa hospital arrived in Egypt, according to the country's state-run media, after the Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said it was transporting 28 premature babies across the border.

It was not immediately clear where the other three babies who were evacuated from Shifa were.

US leads navies as they target meth

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A recently seized ship carrying almost a ton of methamphetamine in the Indian Ocean represents a shift in illicit drug smuggling on the high seas, U.S. and French naval officials said.

“We used to find mostly hashish, (but) more and more we are finding synthetic methamphetamine,” French navy Capt. Yannick Bossu said in an interview last week at the U.S. naval base in Bahrain.

French sailors, as part of a U.S.-led maritime alliance, seized almost 1,600 pounds of methamphetamine from a stateless vessel on its way to Africa in an operation in the Indian Ocean on Nov. 4.

“Those drugs are disseminated everywhere in the world from those hubs, to Europe, to the U.S., to Russia,” Bossu said. “What we are doing here contributes to the regional stability,

but also to the security of our own populations all over the world.”

Smugglers at sea often use a well-known route to bring heroin and hashish from Pakistan to Kenya. But now smugglers are moving further south, with Mozambique being the destination of methamphetamine from “somewhere north of the Indian Ocean,” Bossu said.

The meth traveling on the high seas comes from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, said Ali Latif, Asia editor at the New Humanitarian, a publication funded by the United Nations.

Methamphetamine production in Afghanistan skyrocketed over the last 10 years as families realized the drug was easy to produce, with the help of smugglers able to move the goods around the world.

Methamphetamine from Afghanistan has been seized as far away as France, Mozambique and Hong Kong, a brief by the United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime said in August.

“They’re getting it across a lot of borders and they’re all taking a cut,” said Latif, who has reported on the Afghan meth trade.

While most meth is exported by land, a significant amount is smuggled via ships, Latif said.

The illicit cargo seized by French sailors earlier this month was discovered as part of a flag verification boarding, Bossu said.

International law generally allows maritime law enforcement authorities to board stateless vessels. While sailors or other authorities are there, they can conduct a search.

Bossu’s task force, which patrols the Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, has seized almost four tons of methamphetamine, heroin and hashish in recent months, a U.S. 5th Fleet statement said last week.

Bossu’s task force operates as part of Combined Maritime

Forces, a coalition led by a U.S. Navy vice admiral.

The coalition counters piracy, trains allies and patrols Middle East waterways.

Seizures have slowed in recent months due to weather and “events in Israel and Gaza,” U.S. Navy Capt. Hamish Kirkland, chief of staff for Combined Maritime Forces, said last week.

U.S. naval assets were redirected from maritime patrols and redeployed after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas in Israel, he said.

Combined Maritime Forces has been relying more on ships from other countries, such as the U.K. and France. U.S. naval vessels will return to the patrols soon, Kirkland said.

A statement by the 5th Fleet said that some \$1.3 billion in illicit narcotics have been seized since 2021, though Kirkland noted that Combined Maritime Forces does not assign monetary values to seizures.

Marcos says China pushing closer to the Philippines

Associated Press

HONOLULU — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines said the situation in the South China Sea “has become more dire” as China expands its presence in an area where multiple nations have competing territorial claims.

China has showed interest in atolls and shoals that are “closer and closer” to the coast of the Philippines, with the nearest atoll about 60 nautical miles away, Marcos said.

“Unfortunately, I cannot report that the situation is improving,” Marcos said Sunday. “The situation has become more dire than it was before.”

Marcos spoke during a ques-

tion and answer session after he delivered a talk at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. The Philippines president stopped in Hawaii to meet with U.S. military leaders and the local Filipino community on his way home from a regional summit meeting in San Francisco.

The visit held both geopolitical and personal significance for the leader. Marcos’s father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was forced into exile in Hawaii in 1986 after he was ousted in an army-backed “people power” uprising in the Philippines.

His trip comes at a time when the U.S. and the Philippines have been deepening their long-stand-

ing alliance in a shift after Marcos’ predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, nurtured cozy ties with China and Russia.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own territory and refuses to acknowledge claims from the Philippines and four other governments to some or all of the waterway. Beijing has dismissed the findings of a U.N.-backed arbitration tribunal that invalidated China’s sweeping historical claims under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Marcos reiterated that his nation wouldn’t yield.

“The Philippines will not give a single square inch of our territory to any foreign power,” he said in his speech.

The U.S. says China has militarized several islands it built in the area, arming them with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and fighter jets.

Marcos said features in the South China Sea are “slowly being turned into bases.” He said Adm. John Aquilino, the top U.S. military commander in the Indo-Pacific region, showed him a model of one earlier in the day.

The level of commitment China made “to those military bases” was “remarkable,” Marcos said.

Tensions in the area have risen recently as China has blockaded an isolated Philippine marine outpost on Second Thomas Shoal, also known as Ayungin Shoal.

Trump lawyers urge US court to revoke gag order

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A lawyer for Donald Trump urged a federal appeals court Monday to revoke a gag order against the former president in a landmark criminal case, while a prosecutor argued that curbs are necessary to prevent intimidation and threats against participants in the case that charges Trump with scheming to overturn the 2020 election.

Appeals court judges asked skeptical and at times aggressive questions of attorneys on both sides while weighing whether to put back in place an order from a trial judge that barred Trump from inflammatory comments against prosecutors, potential witnesses and court staff.

The judges raised a litany of hypothetical scenarios that could arise in the months ahead as they considered how to fashion a balance between an order that protects Trump's First

Amendment rights and the need to protect "the criminal trial process and its integrity and its truth finding function."

"There's a balance that has to be undertaken here, and it's a very difficult balance in this context," Judge Patricia Millett told Cecil VanDevender, a lawyer with special counsel Jack Smith's office. "But we have to use a careful scalpel here and not step into really sort of skewing the political arena, don't we?"

VanDevender replied that he agreed but said he believes that the gag order does strike the appropriate balance.

The court did not immediately rule, but the outcome of Monday's arguments will set parameters on what Trump, as both a criminal defendant and the leading candidate for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, can and cannot say as the March 2024 trial date nears. The stakes are high given the

volume and intensity of Trump's public comments about the case and the massive public platform he holds. In a sign of its import, special counsel Smith himself attended the proceedings, sitting in the front row of the courtroom.

During arguments that spanned nearly two-and-a-half hours, the judges expressed clear sympathy for the idea that Trump's rhetoric could inspire threats of violence.

Judge Brad Garcia pressed Trump lawyer John Sauer to explain why the court shouldn't take preventive steps.

But the judges also wondered aloud where to strike a balance. Millett, an appointee of former President Barack Obama, at one point expressed incredulity at the idea that Trump would not be able to respond to criticism about the case from rival candidates if he ever decided to participate in a presidential debate.

Bidens kick off holidays, serve dinner to Va. troops

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — President Joe Biden visited naval installations in Virginia on Sunday to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday week, introducing an early screening of the upcoming movie "Wonka" and sharing a "friendsgiving" meal with service members and their relatives.

The president and first lady Jill Biden headed to a packed auditorium at Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads to introduce the new film centered around the early life of Roald Dahl's fictional eccentric chocolatier, Willy Wonka. It will be officially released Dec. 15.

He joked to the many youngsters in the crowd: "I like kids more than adults" and added "I wish I could stay and watch 'Wonka' with you."

Instead, the Bidens helped serve dinner with service members from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS Gerald R. Ford at Norfolk Naval Station, the largest installation of its kind in the world, along with their families.

"You literally are the backbone, the spine, the spine of this nation," the president said. "Only 1% of you, that's all, that protects the 99% of us."

The event featured around 400 service members and their relatives seated in folding chairs and around wooden, circular tables inside a concrete-floored hangar that included three display Black Hawk helicopters, a towering American flag and a screen with the image of the White House surrounded by falling leaves and the words "Happy Thanksgiving."

"I mean from the bottom of my heart," the president said. "Family members, you are the heart of this operation."

Gov. Abbott endorses Trump as they visit US-Mexico border town in Texas

Associated Press

EDINBURG, Texas — Donald Trump picked up the Texas governor's endorsement Sunday during a visit to a U.S.-Mexico border town and promised that his hard-line immigration policies in a second presidential term would make Greg Abbott's "job much easier."

"You'll be able to focus on other things in Texas," Trump told Abbott as they each appeared before a crowd of about 150 at an airport hangar in Edinburg.

Abbott, a longtime ally and fellow border hawk, said he was proud to endorse the former president, who is the Republi-

can Party's front-runner for the 2024 nomination.

"We need a president who's going to secure the border," Abbott said, speaking in a town that is about 30 miles from the Hidalgo Port of Entry crossing with Mexico. "We need Donald J. Trump back as our president of the United States of America."

Earlier, Trump served meals to Texas National Guard soldiers, troopers and others who will be stationed at the border over Thanksgiving. Trump shook hands and posed for pictures.

"What you do is incredible, and you want it to be done right," Trump told them.

Abbott said about the Guard members and Texas troopers who are stationed at the border: "The only reason why they are here is because we have a president of the United States of America who is not securing our border."

A Marquette Law School poll of registered voters conducted in late September gave Trump a 24-point advantage over President Joe Biden on handling immigration and border security issues — 52% to 28%.

Former first lady Rosalynn Carter dies at 96

Associated Press

ATLANTA—Former first lady Rosalynn Carter, the closest adviser to Jimmy Carter during his one term as president and their four decades thereafter as global humanitarians, has died at age 96.

The Carter Center said she died Sunday after living with dementia and suffering many months of declining health. The statement said she “died peacefully, with family by her side” at 2:10 p.m. at her rural Georgia home of Plains.

“Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished,” the former president said in the statement. “She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew somebody loved and supported me.”

President Joe Biden called the Carters “an incredible family because they brought so much grace to the office.”

“He had this great integrity,

still does. And she did too,” Biden told reporters as he was boarding Air Force One on Sunday night after an event in Norfolk, Va.

Later, the White House released a joint statement from the president and first lady Jill Biden saying that Carter inspired the nation:

“She was a champion for equal rights and opportunities for women and girls; an advocate for mental health and wellness for every person; and a supporter of the often unseen and uncompensated caregivers of our children, aging loved ones, and people with disabilities.”

The Carters were married for more than 77 years, forging what they both described as a “full partnership.” Unlike many previous first ladies, Rosalynn sat in on Cabinet meetings, spoke out on controversial issues and represented her husband on foreign trips. Aides to President Carter sometimes referred to her — pri-

vately — as “co-president.”

“Rosalynn is my best friend ... the perfect extension of me, probably the most influential person in my life,” Jimmy Carter told aides during their White House years, which spanned from 1977-81.

The former president, now 99, remains at the couple’s home in Plains after entering hospice care himself in February.

Fiercely loyal and compassionate as well as politically astute, Rosalynn Carter prided herself on being an activist first lady, and no one doubted her behind-the-scenes influence.

After leaving Washington, Jimmy and Rosalynn co-founded The Carter Center in Atlanta to continue their work. She chaired the center’s annual symposium on mental health issues. She also wrote “Helping Yourself Help Others,” about the challenges of caring for elderly or ailing relatives, and a sequel, “Helping Someone With Mental Illness.”

Eleanor Rosalynn Smith was born in Plains on Aug. 18, 1927, the eldest of four children. Her father died when she was young, so she took on much of the responsibility of caring for her siblings when her mother went to work part time.

She soon fell in love with the brother of one of her best friends. Jimmy and Rosalynn had known each other all their lives — it was Jimmy’s mother, nurse Lillian Carter, who delivered baby Rosalynn — but he left for the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., when she was still in high school.

They wed in 1946, shortly after his graduation from Annapolis and Rosalynn’s graduation from Georgia Southwestern College. Their sons were born where Jimmy Carter was stationed: John William (Jack) in Portsmouth, Va., in 1947; James Earl III (Chip) in Honolulu in 1950; and Donnell Jeffery (Jeff) in New London, Conn., in 1952. Amy was born in Plains in 1967.

Dem-led cities buy tickets to send migrants elsewhere

AP/Report for America

DENVER — As weary migrants arrive in Denver on buses from the U.S.-Mexico border city of El Paso, Texas, officials offer them two options: temporary shelter or a bus ticket out.

Nearly half of the 27,000 migrants who arrived in Denver since November 2022 have chosen the bus, plane or train tickets to other cities in the U.S., city data shows. In New York and Illinois, taxpayer dollars also are being spent on tickets, creating a shuffle of migrants in the interior U.S. who need shelter, food and medical assistance as they await rulings on asylum cases that can take years.

The transfer of migrants has gained momentum since Republican governors in Texas and Florida started chartering buses and planes to Democratic-led ci-

ties in what critics waved off as political stunts. More than a year later, some of those cities, their resources dwindling, are eager to help migrants move on to their final destinations.

The efforts show the increased pressures cities are facing as more migrants from around the globe are coming to the U.S. southern border, often fleeing economic turmoil. Illegal border crossings topped 2 million during the government’s fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the second-highest number on record.

Denver alone has spent at least \$4.3 million in city funds to send migrants to other U.S. cities, freeing up shelter beds for new arrivals while adding to the numbers in other Democratic-led cities. The cities say they buy tickets only for migrants who want to travel and they do not coerce people to leave.

Microsoft hires Altman; OpenAI to probe firing

Associated Press

LONDON — Microsoft snapped up Sam Altman and another architect of OpenAI for a new venture after their sudden departures shocked the artificial intelligence world, leaving the newly installed CEO of the ChatGPT maker to paper over tensions by vowing to investigate Altman’s firing.

The developments Monday come after a weekend of drama and speculation about how the power dynamics would shake out at OpenAI, whose chatbot kicked off the generative AI era by producing human-like text, images, video and music.

It ended with former Twitch leader Emmett Shear taking over as OpenAI’s interim chief executive and Microsoft announcing it was hiring Altman and OpenAI co-founder and

former President Greg Brockman to lead Microsoft’s new advanced AI research team.

Despite the rift between the key players behind ChatGPT and the company they helped build, both Shear and Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said they are committed to their partnership.

Microsoft invested billions of dollars in the startup and helped provide the computing power to run its AI systems. Nadella wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he was “extremely excited” to bring on the former executives of OpenAI.

In an X post Monday, Shear said he would hire an independent investigator to look into what led up to Altman’s ouster and write a report within 30 days.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Native American boy forced to cut his hair

KS MISSION — A Kansas grade school forced an 8-year-old Native American boy to cut off his hair after he grew it out for cultural reasons, the American Civil Liberties Union said.

In a letter, the ACLU demanded that the Girard School District rescind a policy at the elementary school that bars long hair for boys, alleging it violates state and federal laws.

The boy, who is member of the Wyandotte Nation, attended an annual tribal gathering geared toward children over the summer. He saw many men with long hair and was inspired to adopt the common cultural practice of cutting hair only when mourning the loss of a loved one, according to the ACLU.

But school officials told him that he needed to cut his hair to comply with the dress code, the ACLU said.

His mother went to the school and explained that he grew out his hair for cultural reasons and offered to show documentation of his tribal affiliation. The ACLU said she was told there were no exemptions.

Lawmaker's request for \$65K safety fence denied

NY SYRACUSE — A federal judge rejected Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's request to have an upstate New York man convicted of sending her threatening voicemails pay \$65,000 for her Georgia home's security fence.

Joseph Morelli pleaded guilty in February to threatening the Republican member of Con-

gress in several calls in 2022 to her Washington, D.C., office. He was sentenced to three months in prison in August.

The Endicott, N.Y., resident said "I'm gonna harm you" in one voicemail and threatened to "pay someone 500 bucks to take a baseball bat and crack your skull," in another, prosecutors said.

Greene sought restitution of \$65,257 for the construction of the fence and \$1,375 for reconfiguring existing security cameras at her Georgia home.

U.S. District Judge Brenda Kay Sannes wrote that federal law authorizes restitution when there is a property loss, but "Greene — or, more accurately, her campaign — expended money for personal security enhancements."

Toddler accidentally fires mother's gun in Walmart

OH WAVERLY — Police said a woman is facing a child endangerment charge after her toddler found a gun in her purse and accidentally fired it in a southern Ohio Walmart store.

The Waverly Police Department said the woman told officers that the 2-year-old boy took her Taurus 9 mm firearm from her purse, and it went off.

Police said the bullet went into the ceiling of the store, and the child was left with a minor injury to his forehead "due to contact with the magazine."

Police said the woman, whose name wasn't released, was taken into custody and charged in Pike County Court with endangering children. The boy was released to the care of a guardian and taken to an urgent care facility, police said.

Challenge to vouchers for private schools dismissed

NH CONCORD — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a leader of one of New Hampshire's teachers' unions to stop public dollars from being spent to fund private schools through the Education Freedom Account program, saying she has not shown that it violates the state constitution.

The lawsuit was filed in Merrimack County Superior Court last year. It sought an injunction to stop the voucher-like program.

Deb Howes, president of the American Federation of Teachers New Hampshire, had said the program runs afoul of the Constitution because money from the state's education trust fund is specifically set aside for public education and cannot be used for private purposes.

The state had moved to dismiss the case, arguing that Howes failed to make a claim that the program was illegal or unconstitutional.

Century-overdue library book is finally returned

MN ST. PAUL — A library book that is more than a century overdue was finally returned in St. Paul, Minn.

Titled "Famous Composers" and featuring the likes of Bach and Mozart, the tome turned up while someone was sorting through a relative's belongings.

The St. Paul Public Library checkout slip showed it was last borrowed in 1919, Minnesota Public Radio reported.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter joked in a tweet that there would be no fine. The library, like

many in the U.S., stopped charging late fees in 2019.

The future of the book is unsure. John Larson, the St. Paul Public Library's digital library coordinator, said he doubted it will go back into circulation because of its delicate condition, but expected the library to hang onto it.

"It has reached a point where it's not just an old book, it's an artifact. It has a little bit of history to it," he said.

Commission OKs fracking in state, wildlife parks

OH COLUMBUS — Some state parks can be fracked in Ohio, a decision made by a government commission despite an ongoing investigation into oil and gas companies claiming possible fraudulent support.

During a raucous meeting attended by many fracking opponents, the Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission OK'd several parcels for fracking by outside entities — all of them owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Department of Transportation — that include state parks and designated wildlife areas.

Under state law, the identities of those who nominated the land for oil and gas drilling are confidential.

The vote took place during a tense public meeting at which anti-fracking protesters held up signs that read "DENY" and "Save Our Parks."

Advocates accused the state board members of lacking transparency, upholding the interests of corporate greed and poisoning future generations.

— From wire reports

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World, National
and Military News

Analysis: NFL favorites find ways to win

Associated Press

Dallas dominated. Detroit and Denver rallied. Jacksonville and Buffalo rebounded. San Francisco cruised.

There were few surprise results Sunday as 10 of the 12 favorites won. They got there in different ways.

Add Miami, Cleveland, Houston and the Los Angeles Rams to the list of winners. Only Green Bay and the New York Giants pulled off upsets, slight ones considering their opponents.

The Cowboys clobbering the lowly Carolina Panthers 33-10 was the most predictable outcome. Dak Prescott got to spend another fourth quarter on the sideline as Dallas (7-3) won by more than 21 points for the sixth time in 10 games.

DaRon Bland returned an interception for a touchdown for his fourth pick-6 of the season and Micah Parsons had 2½ sacks. The Cowboys still have a long way to go to catch Philadelphia (8-1) in the NFC East and have a tough schedule with five of their seven remaining games against teams with winning records.

“If you look on paper, a lesser opponent, but we knew we had to come in ... get going

fast and not take them lightly and keep the focus high,” Prescott said. “Got the job done. To say it was clean and to say that we did exactly what we wanted to do, I can’t say that. Got to go look at the film, but you’ll take the win any way we can get it. It was a good win.”

The Lions showed their resilience in a 31-26 comeback victory over Chicago. They trailed the Bears by 12 with three minutes remaining before Jared Goff shook off three interceptions and boos from the home crowd to help Detroit (8-2) head into Thanksgiving with its best record through 10 games since 1962.

The Broncos trailed Minnesota throughout the game after an early field goal but rallied for a 21-20 victory on Russell Wilson’s 15-yard touchdown pass to Courtland Sutton with 1:03 remaining.

Denver (5-5) has turned its season around under first-year coach Sean Payton with four straight wins to climb into the AFC playoff picture.

“We’ve got some momentum. I don’t know if I’m ready to groove yet,” Payton said.

The Jaguars bounced back from a hum-

bling, embarrassing loss to the 49ers last week with a 34-14 rout of Tennessee. Trevor Lawrence had two TD passes and ran for two scores and the Jaguars (7-3) won for the sixth time in seven games.

The Bills also enjoyed a rout after a tough week that saw offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey lose his job. They dismantled the Jets 32-6, finally sending Zach Wilson to the bench.

With Joe Brady calling the plays, Josh Allen and the offense got back on track to help Buffalo (6-5) snap a two-game losing streak and get closer in the playoff race.

The 49ers rolled to a 27-14 win against overmatched Tampa Bay. Brock Purdy threw for 333 yards, three TDs and had a first perfect passer rating. San Francisco (7-3) is back to playing at a championship level following a three-game losing streak.

“We can’t achieve our goals or win the Super Bowl in October,” 49ers defensive lineman Arik Armstead said. “We want to be playing our best football in November, December and in January.”

Every team wants to play important games. There’s no telling what’ll happen when they get there.

Sutton’s touchdown catch lifts Broncos over Vikings

Associated Press

DENVER — Courtland Sutton’s leaping 15-yard touchdown catch with 1:03 remaining powered the Denver Broncos to a 21-20 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday night, ending the NFL’s longest winning streak at five games.

The Broncos (5-5) now own the league’s longest winning streak at four.

Sutton outleapt cornerback Mekhi Blackmon, who had his eyes on an interception of Russell Wilson’s high throw. A failed 2-point try kept the Vikings within a point and needing a field goal to win it.

The Broncos’ defense — which produced three more takeaways, giving Denver a dozen over its last three games — didn’t allow the Vikings to get out of their own side of the field.

Denver forced Joshua Dobbs into an intentional grounding that brought up fourth-and-25 before Dobbs threw one final incompleting from the Vikings 21 with 16 seconds left.

Lions 31, Bears 26: David Montgomery ran for a 1-yard touchdown with 29 seconds left against his former team, and host

Detroit rallied past Justin Fields and Chicago.

Browns 13, Steelers 10: Dustin Hopkins kicked a 34-yard field goal with 2 seconds left after rookie quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson completed four straight clutch passes, and host Cleveland beat Pittsburgh.

Rams 17, Seahawks 16: Lucas Havrisik made a 22-yard field goal with 1:31 to play for host Los Angeles, which held on to beat Seattle when Jason Myers missed a 55-yard attempt with 3 seconds left.

Bills 32, Jets 6: Josh Allen threw three touchdown passes and host Buffalo scored on six of its first eight possessions to rout New York.

Cowboys 33, Panthers 10: DaRon Bland tied an NFL record with his fourth pick-6 of the season, Dak Prescott threw for 189 yards and two touchdowns, and visiting Dallas trounced Carolina for its fourth win in five games.

49ers 27, Buccaneers 14: Brock Purdy threw a 76-yard strike to Brandon Aiyuk for one of his three touchdown passes, and host San Francisco beat Tampa Bay.

Dolphins 20, Raiders 13: Jalen Ramsey had two of Miami’s three interceptions, including a pick in the end zone that put the game away with 22 seconds left, and the host Dolphins overcame three turnovers of their own to beat Las Vegas.

Texans 21, Cardinals 16: Standout rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 336 yards with two touchdowns, and host Houston overcame his season-high three interceptions to beat Arizona.

Packers 23, Chargers 20: Jordan Love threw for 322 yards and found Romeo Doubs for a 24-yard touchdown with 2:33 left to give host Green Bay the win over Los Angeles.

Giants 31, Commanders 19: Sam Howell threw three interceptions among six turnovers for host Washington, which might have reached the low point of coach Ron Rivera’s tenure with the loss to last-place New York.

Jaguars 34, Titans 14: Trevor Lawrence threw two touchdown passes to Calvin Ridley, and host Jacksonville rebounded from its worst loss of the season by drubbing Tennessee.

Last-second jumper lifts No. 19 Texas

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Max Abmas hit a fallaway jumper at the buzzer as No. 19 Texas outlasted a stiff challenge from Louisville to earn an 81-80 victory Sunday in the Empire Classic.

In a game with 21 lead changes and 14 ties, Abmas gave the Longhorns (4-0) the dramatic win off a successful inbounds play.

Kadin Shedrick scored a career-high 27 points for Texas. Abmas added 14 as the Longhorns shot 46.3%.

Sky Clark and Tre White scored 20 apiece for the Cardinals (2-2), who were unable to finish off their first win against a ranked team since beating Virginia Tech on Jan. 6, 2021.

No. 3 Arizona 101, UT-Arlington 56: Kylan Boswell scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half and the Wildcats scored 20 straight points spanning the end of the first half and start of the second.

Arizona (5-0) had seven players score in double figures and have had five with 10 or

more points in every game this season while averaging 99.6 points.

Oumar Ballo added 15 points on 7-for-8 shooting, and Caleb Love had 10 points, six rebounds and six assists.

No. 5 UConn 77, Indiana 57: Tristen Newton had 23 points and 11 rebounds and the Huskies pulled away in the second half to beat the Hoosiers in the Empire Classic at Madison Square Garden.

After winning its first three games by an average of 39 points, UConn (4-0) got its fourth double-digit win thanks largely to Newton, who also had six assists.

Cam Spencer added 18 points for the defending national champions.

Malik Reneau led the Hoosiers (3-1) with 18 points.

No. 6 Houston 69, Dayton 55: LJ Cryer had 18 points and Jamal Shead had 16 as the Cougars ran past the Flyers to win the Charleston Classic tournament title.

Shead scored his season high

and had seven of Houston's first nine points as it opened a 14-4 lead less than six minutes in. The Cougars are 6-0 to open for a second straight season.

No. 12 Miami 91, Kansas State 83: Tournament MVP Nijel Pack scored 20 of his 28 points in the first half against his former school, and the Hurricanes topped the Wildcats to win the Baha Mar Hoops Bahamas championship.

Norchad Omier scored 23 for Miami (5-0), which tied a school record by being in the AP Top 25 for the 17th consecutive week on Monday.

Cam Carter scored 28 points — 24 in the second half — and Arthur Kaluma had 18 points and 12 rebounds for Kansas State (3-2).

No. 16 USC 81, Brown 70: Boggie Ellis scored 28 points and Isaiah Collier added 24 to lead the host Trojans to victory over the pesky Bears.

It wasn't easy. Ellis scored 16 points in the first half for USC (3-1) and was pivotal late in holding off Brown.

Bronny James warmed up with his teammates before the game, which was believed to be the first time he's done so this season.

No. 18 Michigan State 81, Alcorn State 49: Tre Holloman scored 17 points and Jaden Akins added 13 to help the host Spartans roll over the Braves.

Coen Carr had 11 points for Michigan State (3-2), which played without leading scorer Tyson Walker (23.0 ppg), who did not dress due to illness. Holloman started in place of Weaver, scoring 12 of his 17 points in the first half.

No. 23 Illinois 88, Southern 50: Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 17 of his 24 points in the first half, Dain Dainja added 12 points and Quincy Guerrier had 10 to lead the host Illini over the Jaguars.

A 17-point run in the final five minutes of the first half gave Illinois a 45-27 lead at the break. The Illini (4-1) weren't threatened in the second half, extending their lead to as many as 34 points.

Nylander's OT goal helps Leafs extend winning streak

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — William Nylander scored at 3:09 of overtime, and the Toronto Maple Leafs extended their winning streak to four with a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Wild on Sunday in the final game of the NHL's Global Series in Sweden.

Nylander collected the puck, skated toward the net and fired a shot past Marc-Andre Fleury for his 12th goal of the season. He also extended his franchise-record season-opening point streak to 17 games.

"It's pretty special to get the OT winner there," Nylander said. "It was a great four points for us here."

Nylander had five points (two goals, three assists) in Toronto's two games in Stockholm.

"He's got such confidence and swagger here now that he is just feeling like he can turn a game at any point in time," Toronto coach Sheldon Keefe said. "He stepped up in big moments and was a huge part of why we got four points here."

Auston Matthews added a goal and an assist for Toronto. He tied Kyle Connor of the Winnipeg Jets for the league lead with 14 goals.

Matthew Knies scored his fifth of the season, Morgan Rielly added a goal and two assists and Joseph Woll stopped 33 shots for Toronto.

Mats Zuccarello had a goal and an assist for Minnesota.

Flyers 5, Blue Jackets 2: Ryan Poehling had a goal and two assists, Joel Farabee added

a goal and an assist and host Philadelphia won its fifth straight game, beating slumping Columbus.

Bobby Brink and Travis Konecny also scored for Philadelphia. Cam York scored an empty-netter when his clearing attempt from behind Philadelphia's own goal line ricocheted off the side boards. Samuel Ersson made 20 saves.

Boone Jenner and Alexandre Texier scored for the Blue Jackets, who have lost nine in a row.

Penguins 3, Golden Knights 0: Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 37 shots in his return from injury and host Pittsburgh blanked Vegas.

Nedeljkovic recorded his first shutout of the season and the eighth of his career. It was his

first shutout since April 24, 2022, when he was a member of the Detroit Red Wings.

Ryan Graves and Noel Acciari each scored for the first time this season.

Adin Hill made 30 saves for the Golden Knights, who opened the season 11-0-1, but have lost five of seven since.

Sabres 3, Blackhawks 2: Rasmus Dahlin had a goal and two assists, and visiting Buffalo stopped a three-game slide by topping Chicago.

Erik Johnson snapped a third-period tie.

Blues 3, Ducks 1: Jake Neighbours and Pavel Buchnevich scored in the first period and visiting St. Louis snapped a two-game California losing streak.

Durant, Suns outlast Jazz in double OT

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Kevin Durant totaled 39 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds to lead the Suns to a 140-137 double overtime win over the Utah Jazz on Sunday night.

Phoenix won its third straight and beat the Jazz for the second time in three days.

Devin Booker scored 22 of his 26 points after halftime and tallied eight assists for the Suns. Eric Gordon added 20 points, Jusuf Nurkic had 18 and Grayson Allen finished with 14.

Lauri Markkanen finished with 38 points and 17 rebounds to lead Utah. Talen Horton-Tucker chipped in 25 points, Jordan Clarkson added 22, Collin Sexton had 18 and John Collins had 15.

Utah lost despite a 27-18 advantage in second-chance points and a 26-12 edge in fast-break points.

Durant scored back-to-back baskets and knocked down three free throws to push the Suns out to a 135-130 lead in the second overtime.

The Jazz tied it again with

58.9 seconds left. Allen countered a go-ahead 3-pointer with 43 seconds remaining to keep Utah from taking its first lead after regulation.

76ers 121, Nets 99: Joel Embiid had 32 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists as visiting Philadelphia beat Brooklyn.

Tyrese Maxey finished with 25 points and 10 assists, and De'Anthony Melton scored 21 points on 8-for-10 shooting for his fifth straight double-figure scoring game.

Cavaliers 121, Nuggets 109: Darius Garland scored 26 points and rookie Craig Porter Jr. added a career-high 21, powering host Cleveland to its third straight victory.

Evan Mobley had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Jarrett Allen added 15 points for Cleveland, which built a season-high 26-point lead on Denver in the fourth quarter.

Celtics 102, Grizzlies 100: Kristaps Porzingis scored 26 points, including the winning dunk with 1:01 left, as visiting Boston held on for the victory

over Memphis.

Porzingis' dunk was followed by a flurry of missed shots, including a missed 3-pointer by Santi Aldama with 4 seconds left as Boston held on to win its sixth straight.

Lakers 105, Rockets 104: LeBron James scored a season-high 37 points, including the go-ahead free throw with 1.9 seconds remaining, and host Los Angeles held off Houston.

It was James' fifth 30-point game this season and his fourth in his last seven as the Lakers have won five of their last six.

Kings 129, Mavericks 113: Domantas Sabonis had 32 points and 13 rebounds, De'Aaron Fox scored 30 and visiting Sacramento won its sixth consecutive game with a victory over Dallas.

Keegan Murray added 17 points as all five starters scored in double figures for the Kings, who improved to 3-0 on a six-game road trip.

Thunder 134, Trail Blazers 91: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points before heading to the bench in the third quarter

and visiting Oklahoma City won its fifth straight game with a rout of Portland.

Rookie Chet Holmgren added 16 points and six rebounds for the Thunder, who led by as many as 47 points. Isaiah Joe had 15 points, all on 3-pointers.

Raptors 142, Pistons 113: Pascal Siakam scored 23 points, Scottie Barnes and Dennis Schroder each had 17 and host Toronto never trailed in handling Detroit its 11th consecutive loss.

Barnes led Toronto with nine assists as the Raptors recorded a franchise-record 44. Toronto finished with more assists than Detroit had made baskets (39).

Magic 128, Pacers 116: Paolo Banchero scored 24 points, Franz Wagner added 19, and visiting Orlando jumped to a big lead early and routed Indiana.

Six Magic players scored at least 13. Jalen Suggs, who sat out Friday's win at Chicago with a knee injury, scored nine of his 18 in the opening quarter. Moritz Wagner scored 16 and Cole Anthony 15.

Free-agent pitcher Nola re-signs with Philadelphia

Associated Press

Aaron Nola is staying in Philadelphia, after all.

The right-hander signed a seven-year contract to remain with the Phillies after testing the free-agent market, the team said Sunday. ESPN and others reported the 30-year-old's contract is worth \$172 million.

"At the outset of this offseason, we made signing Aaron our top priority," Phillies President of Baseball Operations Dave Dombrowski said. "We are committed to winning, and having an individual like him in our uniform for years to come only helps us in that regard."

"Aaron has proven to be one of the best and most durable pitchers in our game for a num-

ber of years now, and when considering his leadership abilities and his character, it was very important for us to keep him a part of the Phillies family."

Nola is the first big-name starting pitcher to come off the board among this year's free agents, a group including Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Blake Snell, Sonny Gray, Jordan Montgomery and Eduardo Rodriguez.

Nola was a first-round draft pick by the Phillies in 2014, debuted with Philadelphia the next year and has been there his entire career. He's been one of baseball's most dependable pitchers — a valuable commodity with the modern stress on big league bullpens.

He made at least 32 starts and pitched at least 180 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings in five of the last six years — the exception was the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

Nola went 12-9 with a 4.46 ERA in 32 starts with Philadelphia this year, finishing with 202 strikeouts in 193 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. He had a 4.63 ERA in 2021 and a 4.78 ERA in 2016 in his only other years in that vicinity. His career mark is 3.72.

Nola helped Philadelphia secure an NL wild card in 2023, and then went 3-1 with a 2.35 ERA in four playoff starts. The Phillies were eliminated by Arizona in the NL Championship Series.

Nola made five postseason starts when Philadelphia made

it to the 2022 World Series before losing to Houston. The Baton Rouge, La., native finished with a 2-2 record and a 4.91 ERA.

The 6-foot-2 Nola played college ball at LSU before he was selected by Philadelphia with the No. 7 overall pick in the 2014 amateur draft. He made his big league debut in July 2015, going 6-2 with a 3.59 ERA in 13 starts for the Phillies.

Nola is 90-71 with a 3.72 ERA in 235 career starts over nine seasons — all with Philadelphia. He has 1,582 strikeouts in 1,422 innings.

He had his best season in 2018, when he went 17-6 with a career-low 2.37 ERA in 33 starts and a career-high 212 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings.