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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Afghanistan claims killing al-Qaida leader

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan claimed Sunday it killed a top al-Qaida propagandist on an FBI most-wanted list during an operation in the country's east, showing the militant group's continued presence there as U.S. forces work to withdraw from America's longest-running war amid continued bloodshed.

The reported death of Husam Abd al-Rauf, also known by the nom de guerre Abu Muhsin al-Masri, follows weeks of violence including an Islamic State-claimed suicide bombing Saturday at an education center near Kabul that killed 24 people. Meanwhile, the Afghan government continues to fight Taliban militants even as peace talks in Qatar between the two sides take place for the first time.

The violence and al-Rauf's reported killing threatens the face-to-face peace talks and risks plunging this nation beset by decades of war into further instability. It also complicates America's efforts to withdraw, 19 years after it led an invasion targeting the Taliban for hosting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden after the Sept. 11

attacks.

Details over the raid that led to al-Rauf's alleged death remained murky, hours after Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security intelligence service claimed on Twitter to have killed him in Ghazni province. Al-Qaida did not immediately acknowledge al-Rauf's reported death. The FBI, the U.S. military and NATO did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Afghan raid happened last week in Kunsaf, a village in Ghazni province's Andar district 90 miles southwest of Kabul, two government officials said.

Amanullah Kamrani, the deputy head of Ghazni's provincial council, told The Associated Press that Afghan special forces led by the intelligence agency raided Kunsaf, which he described as being under Taliban control. On the village's outskirts, they stormed an isolated home and killed seven suspected militants in a firefight, including al-Rauf, Kamrani said.

Neither Kamrani nor the intelligence agency offered details on how authorities identified al-Rauf, nor how they came to suspect he was in the village.

Kamrani alleged, without providing evidence, that the Taliban had been offering shelter and protection to al-Rauf. The Taliban told the AP on Sunday they are investigating the incident, without elaborating.

If the Taliban had provided protection for al-Rauf, that would violate the terms of its Feb. 29 deal with the U.S. that jump-started the Afghan peace talks. That deal saw the Taliban agree "not to cooperate with groups or individuals threatening the security of the United States and its allies," which includes al-Qaida.

Federal prosecutors in the southern district of New York filed a warrant for al-Rauf's arrest in December 2018, accusing him of providing support to a foreign terrorist organization and being part of a conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens. The FBI put him on the bureau's "Most Wanted Terrorists" list, which now includes 27 others.

Meanwhile Sunday, authorities raised the death toll in Saturday's suicide attack on an education center near Kabul. The suicide bomber, who was stopped by guards from entering the center, killed 24 and wounded 57 — many of them young students.

Coast Guard tests whether drones have place in service

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Coast Guard is testing two types of unmanned surface vessels in waters near Hawaii to determine what role, if any, drones can potentially play in the maritime law-enforcement service.

The monthlong evaluation of autonomous vessels from the companies Saildrone and Spatial Integration Systems is slated to wrap up Nov. 5.

"Our primary goal with this evaluation is to better understand this emerging unmanned surface vessel technology and really understanding how the Coast Guard might be able to use these sorts of systems in the

future to accomplish our missions," Cmdr. Blair Sweigart, the demonstration director with the Coast Guard Research and Development Center in New London, Conn., said during a phone interview with Stars and Stripes last week.

Sweigart and four other personnel from the center are in Hawaii for the duration of the testing, while another five members of the testing team remain in Connecticut for remote monitoring, Sweigart said. Also involved are Hawaii-based Coast Guard members and personnel from the U.S. Navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The pair of drone systems being tested are quite dissimilar. Saildrone is based in

California; Spatial Integration Systems has locations in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.

The low-speed Saildrone is a windfoil that is propelled only by wind and uses a solar panel for communications and navigation. It looks like a surfboard with an airplane wing jutting up perpendicularly.

"It is capable of long-duration deployments, like up to a year at a time at sea with no direct human intervention," Sweigart said.

The Spatial Integration Systems drone is powered by an inboard diesel engine and is similar to small boats used by the Coast Guard.

"Because it is dependent on fuel, it's not something that

we're going to leave out, or that we would leave out, for extended periods of time," he said. "But it might be something that we could deploy off of one of our ships to a shorter duration — maritime domain awareness capability to augment our ongoing missions."

The Coast Guard's 14th District, headquartered in Honolulu, covers an astoundingly huge 14 million acres, including all of Hawaii, American Samoa, Saipan, Guam, Singapore and Japan.

The testing is intended to provide Coast Guard leaders with an assessment of the capabilities and limitations of unmanned vessels, not to evaluate the two products for possible acquisition, he said.

Soldier's long-awaited Medal of Honor delayed by Senate

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The long-awaited Medal of Honor for Alwyn Cashe, who suffered fatal wounds while pulling six soldiers from a burning vehicle in Iraq, has been delayed in the Senate as lawmakers fight over the Supreme Court nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett, according to congressional officials familiar with the issue.

Cashe, 35, died Nov. 5, 2005, about three weeks after repeatedly entering the vehicle to save colleagues from further harm. His story has been the subject of a multiyear effort by his family and many veterans to award him the nation's highest award for valor in combat and received support from Defense Secretary Mark Esper in August after lengthy deliberations in the Army.

If awarded, Cashe would be the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. The president is expected to

support the award, said a White House official, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing deliberations on Capitol Hill.

The House on Sept. 23 unanimously passed a bill that would waive a restriction that states the Medal of Honor must be awarded within five years of a service member's heroic actions.

Advocates for Cashe's family and some lawmakers initially anticipated that the Senate version of the bill could pass within days with a batch of other noncontroversial legislation through a process known as "hotlining," officials said.

But Cashe's case has dragged out, first as the Senate left town for two weeks amid a coronavirus outbreak that afflicted several Senate Republicans, and then as the Senate has wrangled over Barrett's nomination.

Senators also have clashed over attempts to pass more financial stimulus.

Republicans have sought to confirm Barrett quickly, while Democrats have said the issue should be decided after the election. In the meantime, unanimous consent votes have slowed ahead of Barrett's expected Oct. 26 confirmation vote, and Cashe's case continues to wait, Senate officials said.

"There are no objections that we're aware of, but it's caught up in the political stoppage, if you will," said one official familiar with the discussions. Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., who co-sponsored the House legislation, said he is hopeful that Cashe's bill can be passed in the Senate before the election.

"This is on the one-yard line, and the family has been waiting 15 years," Waltz said in a phone interview. "Everything is aligned right now, and it just takes a procedural move to make it happen. There are just too many unknowns after the election."

Storm Zeta forecast to grow into hurricane

Associated Press

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Zeta formed early Sunday off the coast of Cuba, becoming the earliest named 27th Atlantic storm recorded in an already historic hurricane season.

The system was centered about 305 miles south-southeast of the western tip of Cuba, forecasters with the U.S. National Hurricane Center said in a 5 a.m. EDT advisory.

The tropical storm had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph, forecasters said. Zeta is expected to intensify into a hurricane by Tuesday.

Zeta was nearly stationary, located near the Yucatan Peninsula about 295 miles east-southeast of Cozumel, Mexico, and moving north at just 1 mph.

The system was expected to reorganize and move to the north-northwest later Sunday, skirting past Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula on Monday before entering the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for Pinar del Rio, Cuba, and a tropical storm watch was in effect for Cozumel and for Tulum to Rio Lagartos, Mexico.

Forecasters said Zeta could bring 4 to 8 inches of rain to parts of the Caribbean, Mexico, southern Florida and the Florida Keys through Wednesday. Isolated totals up to 12 inches were possible.

Zeta broke the record of the previous earliest 27th Atlantic named storm that formed Nov. 29, 2005, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

This year's season has so many storms that the hurricane center has turned to the Greek alphabet after running out of official names.

US came close to setting new virus record

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A day after the United States set a daily record for new confirmed coronavirus infections, it came very close to doing it again.

Data published by Johns Hopkins University shows that 83,718 new cases in the U.S. were reported Saturday, nearly matching the 83,757 infections reported Friday. Before that, the most cases reported in the U.S. on a single day had been 77,362 on July 16.

Close to 8.6 million Americans have contracted the coronavirus since the pandemic began, and about 225,000 have died. Both statistics are the world's highest. India has more than 7.8 million infections, but its daily number has been declining in recent weeks.

U.S. health officials have feared the surge of infections to come with colder weather and people spending more time indoors, especially as many flout guidelines to protect themselves and others

such as mask-wearing and social distancing.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington currently forecasts that the country's COVID-19 death toll could exceed 318,000 by Jan. 1.

Confirmed coronavirus infections continued to soar Saturday in many parts of the U.S. and Europe. In some cases, so did anger over the restrictions governments put in place to try to stem the tide.

Oklahoma, Illinois, New Mexico and Michigan were among states announcing new record highs in daily confirmed cases Saturday, a day after a nationwide daily record of more than 83,000 reported infections, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Michigan's chief medical executive, said it's "now more important than ever that people take this seriously." The 3,338 new COVID-19 cases in her state topped the old record by more than 1,300.

Agency director contradicts Trump's election predictions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Earlier this month, President Donald Trump was predicting on Twitter that this election would be “the most corrupt” in American history. A day later, the head of an obscure government agency he created offered a much different message.

Christopher Krebs, the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, closed an online conference with a warning about “bad guys, whoever they are,” trying to “sow chaos, sow doubt” about the integrity of the U.S. election.

“I have confidence that your vote is secure, that state and local election officials across this country are working day in and day out, 24/7, that the 2020 election is as secure as possible,” Krebs said.

It was just one of many ways that CISA has been offering a counternarrative as it works behind the scenes to not only help safeguard the election but

also to reassure the public despite messages to the contrary from the White House.

That conflict could be on display on Election Day. Krebs and CISA will be in the national spotlight, monitoring the election amid the inevitable voting glitches and delays, which could be worsened by the coronavirus pandemic, under a president who has said he might not respect the results if he loses.

Krebs warned voters this week to “be prepared for efforts that call into question the legitimacy of the election” without mentioning that it’s the president who has questioned mail-in voting and has called attention to relatively minor incidents in which a small number of ballots had apparently been discarded.

That conflict is all the more notable since CISA was signed into existence by Trump in November 2018 as part of the Department of Homeland Security, which itself has been ac-

cused of politicizing its missions under this administration.

Krebs and Ken Cuccinelli, the acting deputy secretary of DHS, spoke to journalists Thursday and said that, with tens of millions of votes already cast, there has been no sign of any foreign interference, unlike in 2016.

Still, there have been attempts to disrupt the election, including a campaign to send threatening emails to voters in several states that CISA and other federal agencies attributed to Iran, and election security is a widespread concern.

“It is true that the defense has gotten better since 2016, but it’s also true that the offense has gotten better still,” said Tom Warrick, a former deputy assistant secretary for counterterrorism policy at DHS who is now with the Atlantic Council. “I don’t know of anyone who has absolute confidence that this is all going to go well from an election process standpoint.”

Protestors in Belarus urge leader to resign

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Several hundred women marched across the capital of Belarus in heavy rain Saturday to demand the resignation of the country’s authoritarian president, continuing more than 2½ months of protests against his challenged reelection to a sixth term.

The demonstrations were triggered by official results giving President Alexander Lukashenko 80% of the vote in an Aug. 9 election that the opposition insists was rigged. Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron fist since 1994, has accused the United States and its allies of fomenting unrest in the ex-Soviet country.

The women who marched Saturday in Minsk carried umbrellas in the white and red colors of the opposition flag. They also held placards stating their professions to underline widespread opposition to Lukashenko’s 26-year rule among people of various occupations, chanting “Go away!” as a demand for the president’s resignation.

Police arrested at least 10 march participants, according to the Viasna human rights center in Belarus. Smaller anti-government demonstrations were also held in several other cities.

Daily protests in Belarus have continued despite arrests and pressure, peaking on weekends with crowds of 100,000 and more. Another big protest was set for Sunday.

The United States and the European Union have dismissed the August election as neither free nor fair and introduced sanctions against top Belarusian officials accused of vote manipulation and a crackdown on peaceful protesters.

China condemns, warns against weapons deal between US, Taiwan

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

China “resolutely opposes” a U.S. plan to sell \$1.8 billion in weapons systems to Taiwan and warns the move could cause “serious consequences” to the already frayed Sino-American relations, the Chinese defense ministry said Thursday.

The U.S. State Department on Wednesday announced the weapons deal, which includes sensors, artillery and 135 precision land-attack missiles.

Taiwan also plans future purchases of aerial drones, land-based Harpoon anti-ship missiles and underwater mines

to deter amphibious landings, Reuters reported Thursday.

Beijing regards the island as a breakaway province, while the United States considers Taiwan’s status unsettled. The U.S. adheres to the “One China” policy, acknowledging that China believes it has sovereignty over Taiwan, but U.S. law also requires the government to ensure the island can maintain a credible defense.

Spokesman Col. Tan Kefei said the arms sale “seriously violates” the One China policy and “severely interferes in China’s internal affairs,” according to a statement from the

Chinese Ministry of National Defense.

“If the U.S. side discards the basic norms of international relations, violates its commitment and acts capriciously and obstinately, China will for sure resolutely strike back,” Tan said.

Tan further urged the U.S. to “immediately cancel” the sale and “cease military contact with the island ... to avoid serious consequences to Sino-American bilateral and mil-to-mil relations, as well as peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait,” according to the statement.

Pence to travel despite contact with virus

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — Vice President Mike Pence plans to maintain an aggressive campaign schedule this week despite an apparent outbreak of the coronavirus among his senior aides, the White House says.

Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, and "a couple of key staff surrounding the vice president" have tested positive for the virus, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Sunday.

The vice president, who along with his wife, Karen, tested negative Sunday, according to his office, is considered a "close contact" of the aides under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria but will not quarantine, Devin O'Malley, his spokesman, said.

O'Malley said Pence decided to maintain his travel schedule "in consultation with the White House Medical Unit" and "in accordance with the CDC guidelines for essential personnel." Those guidelines require that essential workers exposed to someone with the coronavirus closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and wear a mask whenever around other people.

Washington

SEATTLE — A large clinical trial coordinated by the University of Washington found that people who took hydroxychloroquine were just as likely to get COVID-19 as those who took a placebo, adding to growing evidence that the drug frequently promoted by President Donald Trump doesn't seem to work against the coronavirus.

Nearly 800 people from 38 states participated in the trial, which was funded with \$9.5 million from the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator, a research fund created by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the British philanthropy Wellcome and others.

The volunteers who participated in the clinical trial all had a family member or close contact who had tested positive

for the infection. Participants were randomly assigned to get either a daily pill of hydroxychloroquine or placebo over a 14-day period. The volunteers swabbed their noses every day and sent the specimens to a lab for analysis to see if they had become infected.

Among the group receiving hydroxychloroquine, 46 people became infected with the virus. In the placebo group, the total number of infections was 43. The difference wasn't statistically significant, indicating the drug had no effect, said Dr. Ruanne Barnabas, the UW Medicine physician and researcher who led the project.

Colorado

DENVER — Citing a steady increase in Colorado's coronavirus hospitalization caseload, state health officials announced new limits Friday on personal gatherings of people from different households in more than two dozen counties.

An amended state health order affecting 29 of the state's counties limits personal gatherings to 10 people from no more than two households. Gatherings of up to 25 people were previously permitted in those counties, Colorado Public Radio reported.

Personal gatherings in 30 other Colorado counties were already restricted to 10 people. No new limits were imposed for five counties with lesser caseloads.

The Department of Public Health and Environment said it took the action after investigators determined that COVID-19 cases associated with social gatherings and community exposure had been more common since July.

Maryland

CAMBRIDGE — A rural Maryland county has closed its schools amid a spike in coronavirus cases, becoming the first county in the state to scale back learning in classrooms after officials pushed schools to reopen.

As of Friday, Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore of

Maryland had the highest number of confirmed new cases per 100,000 population during the last seven days, data collected by The Washington Post shows.

Schools and health officials noted that the confirmed virus cases haven't spread across schools, saying that the closures were a safety measure to prevent an outbreak in schools.

Rural communities across the Midwest sat among the top in the nation for new cases per capita over earlier this month, according to Johns Hopkins University researchers.

North Carolina

CHARLOTTE — A North Carolina health official on Saturday ordered a large church to close its doors temporarily because of concerns it is helping spread the coronavirus by disregarding social distancing measures.

Mecklenburg County Health Director Gibbie Harris ordered the United House of Prayer for All People to close all of its buildings and said the church has not cooperated with efforts to stem the virus's spread, the Charlotte Observer reported.

Harris said at least three deaths and more than 121 confirmed cases of the virus have been linked to the church, which held a weeklong church event earlier this month.

The county said the church has continued to hold large gatherings despite recommendations not to do so and has failed to implement social distancing measures. The church did not immediately return a request for comment.

New Hampshire

CONCORD — Anyone who went to five restaurants in Portsmouth, Concord and Peterborough on certain days this month should get tested for the coronavirus, state health officials said Friday.

The Department of Health and Human Services said at least four people who have tested positive visited Daniel Street Tavern in Portsmouth while potentially infectious,

and anyone who was in the bar area on Oct. 9, 14 or 15 should get tested. At least one person has tested positive who visited the Goat Bar and Grill in Portsmouth on Oct. 15.

In Concord, at least five people who have tested positive visited the Draft Sports Bar and Grill on Oct. 9 and 11, and Oct. 14-18. And at the Barley House Restaurant and Tavern, potential exposure via two people may have occurred Oct. 12, 13, 14 and 16.

New Hampshire

Hockey and other indoor ice arena activities can resume in New Hampshire starting Oct. 30, but participants and staff will have to be tested for COVID-19, Gov. Chris Sununu said.

The state paused all hockey activities at indoor rinks for two weeks following positive tests for 158 people associated with the sport over the last two months.

Guidance for re-opening rinks released Friday says all volunteers, coaches, staff, referees and athletes in both youth and adult leagues must be tested at least once by Nov. 6 "to limit early re-introduction of COVID-19."

Connecticut

A Cheshire Police Department employee has tested positive for the coronavirus, prompting a deep cleaning of the building, officials said Saturday.

Town police also canceled fingerprinting for jobs and pistol permits at the police station for the rest of the day.

Officials did not say if the employee is a police officer or not.

Connecticut on Friday reported a 2.9% positive test rate for the coronavirus, nearly as high as the 3% rate on Tuesday, the highest in four months. More than 230 people were hospitalized, also the highest number in four months. Since the pandemic began, more than 66,000 people in the state have tested positive and more than 4,500 have died.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Gun goes off after child grabs it from mom's bag

OH BOARDMAN — An Ohio woman was charged with child endangerment after her child grabbed her gun from her purse, causing it to fire in a Sam's Club.

Amanda Karr, 31, was charged, according to court records, WKBN-TV reported.

No one was shot. Police said they found bullet fragments and plastic fragments from what appeared to be a shopping cart.

Karr told police that she looked away for a brief period and the child retrieved her gun from a concealed compartment, disengaged the safety and pulled the trigger, according to a police report.

Navy unit detonates ordnance found on beach

NC BUXTON — A U.S. Navy unit confirmed that an object discovered on a North Carolina beach was live military ordnance, and has detonated it.

The National Park Service said in a news release that the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit from Norfolk, Va., placed the 100-pound aerial bomb from the World War II-era deep inside the beach near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Beach Access parking area.

The OBX Today reported a three-person EOD team used a combination of explosives.

Man sought for stealing phone from dying woman

MO ST. LOUIS — Police in St. Louis are looking for a man who stole a cellphone from a woman as she lay dying on a sidewalk outside Anheuser-Busch brewery.

The incident, captured on surveillance video, showed a 64-year-old woman who had been jogging collapse on the sidewalk after suffering an apparent heart attack, police said. A man in a red van pulls up to the woman, grabs her cellphone and speeds away. The man did not provide any assistance to the woman, authorities said.

An ambulance later arrived and took the woman to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Man accused of stabbing parents over cigarettes

AR HOT SPRINGS — An Arkansas man faces felony charges after being accused by authorities of stabbing his parents because he ran out of cigarettes.

The Sentinel-Record reported that Carl Thomas Lane faces up to 20 years in prison for allegedly stabbing and injuring his father and mother at their home in Hot Springs.

Police said Lane's mother told officers that her son "became upset about not having cigarettes and a lighter."

Lane's mother alleged her 36-year-old son then stabbed her and her husband with a knife and later fired a BB gun at them at least once, according to a probable cause affidavit.

She told police Lane chased the couple to their bedroom and began stabbing them again before they fled to a neighbor's house.

73-year-old woman pushed onto tracks

NY NEW YORK — Police were searching for a man suspected of knocking a 73-year-old woman onto New York City subway tracks after her family scolded him for smoking marijuana.

It happened during a confrontation between the suspect and the woman's husband and grandson on a subway platform in Brooklyn, police said. He began punching and kicking at the family, sending her tumbling onto the tracks, police said.

The woman was pulled to safety ahead of the next train.

Rodents in power switch caused resort outage

NV LAS VEGAS — A power outage that prompted evacuation of hundreds of casino patrons and prevented guests from checking in for several busy hours at a Las Vegas Strip resort was caused by rodents at an off-site utility switching center, authorities said.

Clark County fire officials said power went out at the Paris Las Vegas and that fire crews and Las Vegas police helped evacuate casino patrons while guests already in their hotel rooms were allowed to stay put.

Utility provider NV Energy told the Las Vegas Review-Journal the problem was traced to a high-voltage transfer switch near the property.

6 homes near sinkhole asked to evacuate

FL GAINESVILLE — A sinkhole that opened recently in a north Florida neighborhood expanded, leading officials to urge residents from six nearby homes to evacuate.

The sinkhole appeared to be about 50 feet wide and about 30 feet deep, said JoAnne Rice, interim chief at Gainesville Fire Rescue.

Rice told the Gainesville Sun that city officials urged the residents in six homes near the sinkhole to leave until geological experts deem the area safe.

Gainesville Fire Rescue will monitor the sinkhole and decide if more evacuations are needed, Rice said.

Man charged for hunting treasure in cemetery

WY CASPER — A Utah man faces felony charges resulting from alleged attempts to locate a treasure on the grounds of a cemetery in Yellowstone National Park.

Rodrick Dow Craythorn, 52, of Syracuse, Utah, was accused of digging in Fort Yellowstone Army Cemetery in northeast Wyoming while searching for the Forrest Fenn treasure.

Craythorn pleaded not guilty to charges of excavating or trafficking in archaeological resources and injury or deprivation to U.S. property.

Assault charges follow spraying incidents

MD BALTIMORE — A Maryland man was charged with three counts of second-degree assault after incidents in which women were sprayed with what was described as a substance that induced dizziness, police said.

Baltimore County Police said Terrence Leroy Devillasee, 38, of Randallstown approached a woman inside of an Owings Mills grocery store and told her there was a substance on her pant leg, news outlets reported.

Surveillance footage showed that Devillasee had sprayed the substance on the woman and, according to police, when she touched it, she felt dizzy. According to police, Devillasee followed the woman out of the store but left after she made a scene. Since word of the incident, Devillasee has been linked to two similar incidents, police said.

From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Wild wins: Rays win latest Series stunner

Associated Press

It was improbable enough that light-hitting journeyman Brett Phillips would connect for Tampa Bay against Dodgers All-Star closer Kenley Jansen.

What followed was outright inconceivable.

Phillips' tying single with two outs in the ninth inning turned into a game-ending hit when the Los Angeles Dodgers dropped the ball twice, allowing Randy Arozarena to stumble home as the winning run in the Rays' 8-7 victory in World Series Game 4 on Saturday night.

It was undoubtedly one of the wildest endings in World Series history. Arozarena tripped and fell on his way home and had begun retreating to third when catcher Will Smith misplayed a relay feed. Arozarena about-faced and dived toward home, pounding on the plate with a big smile while Phillips burst into tears in the outfield.

"Man, baseball is fun," Phillips said.

Walk-off homers are one thing — think Kirk Gibson, Carlton Fisk and Bill Mazeroski, among many others.

But a finish this wacky has only a few precedents in World Series history.

Some more memorable, unimaginable endings from Series past:

1926 World Series Game 7, St. Louis Cardinals at New York Yankees: Babe Ruth was already the most fearsome slugger baseball had ever seen when he stepped to the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning, his mighty Yankees trailing the Cardinals 3-2.

With two outs, Hall of Famer pitcher Gro-

ver Cleveland Alexander took no chances and walked Ruth, bringing cleanup man Bob Meusel to the plate — Lou Gehrig was up after that.

Ruth decided to try to force the action and took off, and was thrown out by catcher Bob O'Farrell. It was the only time a World Series ended with a caught stealing.

1947 World Series Game 4, New York Yankees at Brooklyn Dodgers: Bill Bevens went 7-13 for the Yankees in the final season of a brief major league career, then got the start at Ebbets Field. In the biggest game of his life, he was all over the place, walking a record 10 batters.

But he was effectively wild, too. Because with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, Bevens was somehow still pitching a no-hitter and holding a 2-1 lead. That's when aging, popular Dodgers All-Star Cookie Lavagetto stepped up and launched a double off the right field wall, scoring two runs and ending Bevens' bid for a most unlikely no-hitter.

1986 World Series Game 6, Boston Red Sox at New York Mets: Precisely 34 years before the Dodgers' double miscue Saturday night, Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner let Mookie Wilson's 10th-inning grounder roll between his legs in baseball's most well-known blunder.

The error came after Boston scored twice in the top of the inning, only to let New York tie it on Ray Knight's RBI single and a wild pitch by Bob Stanley. The score was knotted at 5 when Buckner let Wilson's dribbler go by, bringing the winning run around and setting the stage for the Mets' Game 7 victory.

The Red Sox — at the time still plagued by the Curse of the Bambino — didn't win a World Series until 2004.

2013 World Series Game 3, Boston Red Sox at St. Louis Cardinals: Allen Craig scored the winning run for St. Louis without ever touching home plate after umpire Jim Joyce ruled Craig was obstructed by third baseman Will Middlebrooks.

The game was tied at 4 with one out in the bottom of the ninth when second baseman Dustin Pedroia dived for a grounder and threw out Yadier Molina trying to score from third. Catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia then fired wildly trying to catch Craig at third, and Middlebrooks tripped Craig after trying to catch the ball. Craig scampered home and appeared to be thrown out before either side realized Joyce had made the obstruction call. The win put St. Louis up 2-1 in the Series, but Boston won the next three games.

2016 World Series Game 7, Chicago Cubs at Cleveland Indians: Before the Cubs could end their 108-year title drought, they had to wait out a 17-minute rain delay.

Chicago led 6-3 when All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman entered with two outs in the eighth inning. Brandon Guyer greeted him with an RBI double and Rajai Davis followed with a stunning two-run shot to tie it.

Both teams went scoreless in the ninth, and the grounds crew rolled out the tarp before they could begin the 10th. Jason Heyward delivered a fiery speech to his Cubs teammates during the delay, and they responded with two runs when play resumed.

Dodgers keep delivering with 2 outs but still lose

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — With two down, the Los Angeles Dodgers delivered time and time again.

It still wasn't enough.

All the Dodgers' runs in Saturday night's wild 8-7 World Series loss to the Tampa Bay Rays crossed the plate with two outs, raising their total to 57 of 94 in the postseason. The 60.6% clip is on track for a postseason record, topping the previous high of 59.3% by the 1992 Atlanta Braves.

But for all their clutch hitting, the Dodgers couldn't make the last pitch they needed to close

out Game 4.

Brett Phillips' two-out single in the bottom of the ninth inning off closer Kenley Jansen scored Kevin Kiermaier from second base with the tying run and brought home Randy Arozarena all the way from first when center fielder Chris Taylor bobbled the ball for an error and Los Angeles botched a relay to the plate.

Before the astonishing finish, the teams became the first in Series play to score in eight consecutive half innings — two more than the previous high set by the Dodgers and New York Yankees in Game 3 of 1947.

And a World Series devoid

of lead changes for 32 innings suddenly fluctuated like seismic shocks on a graph.

All that two-out offense by the Dodgers had a lot to do with it.

Solo homers by Justin Turner in the first and Corey Seager in the third off Rays starter Ryan Yarbrough built a 2-0 lead.

Max Muncy's RBI single against Pete Fairbanks made it 3-1 in the fifth.

Kike Hernandez's run-scoring double against Diego Castillo gave the Dodgers a 4-2 lead in the sixth.

Joc Pederson's two-run single off Nick Anderson made it 6-5 in the seventh — the Dodg-

ers' first go-ahead pinch hit in the World Series since Kirk Gibson's ninth-inning homer off Hall of Fame closer Dennis Eckersley won the 1988 opener against Oakland.

Seager's tiebreaking single in the eighth, when he punched Nick Anderson's 95 mph fastball just over shortstop Willy Adames into short left field, put the Dodgers ahead 7-6 and made Seager and Turner only the fourth pair of teammates to both have four hits in a Series game.

Little did it accomplish in the end for the Dodgers as they chase a World Series title that's eluded them since 1988.

Sanders paces Cowboys past Cyclones

Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Spencer Sanders waited a long time for this moment.

Oklahoma State's sophomore quarterback passed for 235 yards and ran for 71 and a touchdown in his return from injury, and the sixth-ranked Cowboys defeated No. 17 Iowa State 24-21 on Saturday.

Sanders suffered a right hand injury late last season and missed most of the action in the final three games. This season, he injured his right ankle in the season opener against Tulsa and hadn't played since.

His return had its rough spots — he threw two interceptions. But he made enough plays — including a 34-yard touchdown pass to Jelani Woods — to get his team through.

"I was really frustrated with myself for getting hurt, so I'm really happy that I'm back," he said. "A little frustrated with myself with the two turnovers today, but I'm going to let it go."

Sanders said he was careful, but aggressive as a runner. He had 15 carries, taking away some of Iowa State's focus away from

star running back Chuba Hubbard.

"I ran hard, but I never let anybody one-on-one just take me down," Sanders said. "I was always laying my body to the side knowing I was going to get tackled — just going down rather than taking that extra hit."

Hubbard ran for 139 yards and a touchdown for Oklahoma State (4-0, 3-0 Big 12). With the win, the Cowboys joined Kansas State as the only remaining undefeated teams in conference play.

The Cyclones (3-2, 3-1) vaulted onto the national radar by beating Oklahoma earlier in the month and were seeking their first 4-0 start in league play. Iowa State's Breece Hall, who was second nationally in yards rushing per game, ran for a career-high 185 yards. But the Cyclones were a few plays short.

"We definitely left some out there," Hall said. "We got down to the red zone a couple times and didn't convert and get any points and took some unnecessary penalties and had miscommunication. It was real frustrating."

With Oklahoma State leading 14-7 late in

the second quarter, Iowa State drove deep into Oklahoma State territory but had to settle for a field goal attempt. Connor Assalley's 33-yard kick bounced off the right upright with 1:22 left in the first half. It was his second missed field goal of the first half, and Oklahoma State took its seven-point lead into the break.

Hall broke away for a 66-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, and the Cyclones tied the game at 14.

Sanders' 14-yard touchdown run on the next possession gave the Cowboys the lead again, and Alex Hale's 31-yard field goal pushed the lead to 24-14.

Brock Purdy threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Xavier Hutchinson with 49 seconds remaining to trim Oklahoma State's lead to 24-21. Oklahoma State recovered Iowa State's onside kick, and the Cowboys ran out the clock.

"We'll tip our hat to Oklahoma State," Iowa State coach Matt Campbell said. "Hard-fought football game. They made some plays when they had the opportunity to make them. We had opportunities to make plays and just didn't."

Top 25 takeaways

Fields shows he's a Heisman candidate

Associated Press

Now that Justin Fields has arrived, the Heisman Trophy race can begin.

Though the front-runner might not be the quarterback you think.

Fields made up some ground Saturday, with a spectacular season debut for No. 5 Ohio State against Nebraska.

He went 20-for-21 for 276 yards and a couple of touchdowns. His only incomplete pass was a deep ball that hit Chris Olave in the hands in the end zone, but the receiver couldn't hold on after hitting the turf hard.

"You guys saw the arm we saw," Nebraska linebacker Collin Miller said. "He's making throws guys on Sundays make."

Fields also ran for 54 yards and a score, with a nice spin move to get into the end zone.

Fields and fellow Georgian

Trevor Lawrence came into the season as the presumptive Heisman favorites, but with the Big Ten starting late, Fields will only get nine games tops to make his case. That could be enough.

Meanwhile, Lawrence had his worst game of the season, throwing the first pick-6 of his career and averaging only 6.7 yards per attempt as No. 1 Clemson messed around before putting Syracuse to sleep. Of course a 'bad' game for Lawrence was still pretty good.

So who's the Heisman favorite at this point? Probably Alabama's Mac Jones.

Jones is surrounded by blue-chippers and he had a high bar to clear in Tuscaloosa as Tua Tagovailoa's replacement. But he's not just another guy. The junior has three 400-yard passing games already and just missed another, going for 387 against Tennessee.

The big news out of that game was Alabama star Jaylen Waddle breaking his ankle. The injury ends his season and deprives college football of one of its most thrilling players.

There is no upside to Waddle's injury, but if Jones can keep up his torrid pace and excellent play without him it will only bolster his Heisman resume.

IU breakthrough

Tom Allen pulled one over on James Franklin and No. 8 Penn State and Indiana pulled out a victory against a Top-10 team for the first time in 33 years.

The Hoosiers' coach let Penn State score a late touchdown just to get the ball back. After Nittany Lions freshman running back Devyn Ford obliged, Michael Penix Jr. and the Hoosiers made all the big plays, and Indiana had its biggest victory since beating Ohio State in 1987.

Franklin's been one of the best coaches in the country, though he does draw some criticism for handling of late-game situations. Whether that's always fair is debatable. In this case, no doubt Penn State blew the end-game. Franklin said he went over the do-not-score scenario with his offense. Penn State didn't even need to run a play. Four quarterback kneel downs from the IU 14 would have given Indiana about 15 seconds to get into field-goal position with no timeouts. Then in OT, Allen went for 2 and the win to break a 41-game losing streak against AP Top 10 teams.

"We've been close, and I'm sick and tired of being close," Allen told reporters. "It seemed like the right thing to do."

The Nittany Lions are starting at an 0-2 start with Ohio State coming to Happy Valley next week.

Service academies

Army routs Mercer, accepts bowl bid

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Sandon McCoy had three 1-yard touchdown runs and Army beat Mercer 49-3 on Saturday.

McCoy increased his TD total to eight this season and 18 for his career as the Black Knights (6-1) rolled to their fourth straight victory and their 11th in a row over FCS opponents.

After the game, Army announced it had accepted a bid to play in the Independence Bowl, becoming the first team in the country to gain a spot in the postseason.

The Black Knights are slated to face a Pac-12 Conference foe in the Shreveport, La., bowl game. They are 3-0 in three previous bowl appearances under seventh-year head coach Jeff Monken.

“We deeply appreciate the role they play in our national landscape and will roll out the red carpet for them for their trip to Shreveport,” Independence Bowl Chairman Frank Auer said in a statement.

In Army’s win Saturday, Cade Ballard threw a 53-yard scoring pass to Tyrell Robinson for his team’s first points. It was the first career touchdown pass for Ballard and first scoring reception for Robinson.

After Ballard’s TD toss, Cameron Jones made the first of three interceptions by the Black Knights. That led to a McCoy TD as did Reikan Donaldson’s block of a punt.

Army added three third-quarter touchdowns, on one Jabari Moore’s pick-6 of 29 yards.

The final Black Knights’ points came on Jordan Blackman’s 6-yard rush and the senior was mobbed by his teammates after his first career score.

Army, with the nation’s third-best rushing attack at more than 306 yards per

game, finished with 297 on the ground, outgaining the Bears 360-221.

Mercer (0-2) is playing three fall games before an eight-game Southern Conference schedule in the spring. This was its second meeting with the Black Knights, the previous coming in 1933 with Army winning 19-6.

Attendance was limited to Army’s approximately 4,300 cadets.

San Jose State 14, Air Force 6: Nick Starkel threw two touchdown passes to tight end Derrick Deese Jr. in the third quarter and the host Spartans beat the Falcons on Saturday night in the Mountain West Conference opener for both teams. Bailey Gaither tied his career high with eight receptions for 110 yards for San Jose State.

Starkel completed 22 of 29 passes for 226 yards with one interception. It was the senior’s 11th career start but his first for the Spartans. Starkel made five starts for Texas A&M and then five starts for Arkansas before joining San Jose State as a graduate transfer.

Deese, a senior who went into the game with two career touchdowns, had TD catches of 7 and 11 yards, the latter of which gave the Spartans (1-0, 1-0) a 14-0 lead with 43 seconds left in the third quarter. Bailey Gaither tied his career high with eight receptions for 110 yards.

It was the latest start to a football season in San Jose State’s history. The last time the Spartans began a season in October was in 1936.

Air Force (1-1) had its nine-game win streak — the third longest in program history — snapped.

Haaziq Daniels threw a 34-yard touch-

down pass to Kyle Patterson to trim the Falcons’ deficit to 14-6 after a failed two-point conversion attempt with 13:16 to play.

The Spartans, who closed out the 2019 season with a 17-16 victory over Fresno State, have won back-to-back games for the first time since 2014.

In accordance with local health and safety guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic, fans were not permitted to attend the game.

Houston 37, Navy 21: Clayton Tune threw for 316 yards and three touchdowns and the Cougars won on the road Saturday.

Dalen Morris completed a 60-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Mitchell to give the Midshipmen a 13-9 lead with 4:02 left before halftime. It was all Houston (2-1, 2-0 American Athletic Conference) from there as it went on to score four touchdowns in its next six possessions with the final drive used to kill the clock.

Tune responded with a 51-yard scoring pass to Marquez Stevenson with 1:53 left before halftime as part of a 3-play, 79-yard drive.

About midway through the third quarter, Kyle Porter scored from a yard out for a 23-13 Cougars lead. Houston held Navy (3-3, 3-1) to 11 yards in six plays on the ensuing drive and forced a punt. The Cougars then used a 10-play, 77-yard drive that ended with a 33-yard touchdown pass from Tune to Porter for a 17-point advantage. Tune wrapped it up with 24-yard touchdown pass to Stevenson with 5:24 left to play.

Morris threw for 206 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for the Midshipmen..

Nurmagomedov stops Gaethje, says he’s retiring

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Unbeaten lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov retired from mixed martial arts after stopping Justin Gaethje with a triangle choke early in the second round at UFC 254 on Saturday night.

Nurmagomedov (29-0) made the announcement immediately after he impressively finished

his first fight since the death of his father and lifelong coach in July. Abdulmanap Nurmagomedov had a heart problem exacerbated by COVID-19, and his son was overcome by tears in the cage moments after choking Gaethje unconscious 1:34 into the second round of his third UFC title defense.

“This is my last fight,” Nurmagomedov said. “There’s no way I’m going to be back without my father. I spoke to

my mother. She don’t know how I fight without father, but I promised it’s going to be my last fight, and if I give my word, I have to follow it.”

The 32-year-old Nurmagomedov was active with strikes and with grappling against Gaethje (22-3), the dangerous brawler who had knocked out four consecutive elite opponents while winning the UFC’s interim lightweight title.

After spending the first round

largely trading punches and kicks with the aggressive Gaethje, Nurmagomedov used his unparalleled wrestling skills to take down Gaethje early in the second round and then worked into position for the finishing choke.

Gaethje appeared to tap out at least twice before the referee noticed and stopped the bout, by which time Gaethje was unconscious.