

Israel says it will target Iranian military

The Washington Post

TEL AVIV — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the Biden administration he is willing to strike military rather than oil or nuclear facilities in Iran, according to two officials familiar with the matter, suggesting a more limited counterstrike aimed at preventing a full-scale war.

In the two weeks since Iran's latest missile barrage on Israel, its second direct attack in six months, the Middle East has braced for Israel's promised response, fearing the two countries' decadeslong shadow war could explode into a head-on military confrontation. It comes at a politically fraught time for Washington, less than a month before the election; President Joe Biden has said publicly he would not support an Israeli strike on nuclear-related sites.

When Biden and Netanyahu spoke Wednesday — their first call in more than seven weeks af-

ter months of rising tensions between the two men — the prime minister said he was planning to target military infrastructure in Iran, according to a U.S. official and an official familiar with the matter. Like others in this story, they spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive deliberations.

The White House had no immediate comment. The Israeli prime minister's office said in a statement that "we listen to the opinions of the United States, but we will make our final decisions based on our national interest."

The retaliatory action would be calibrated to avoid the perception of "political interference in the U.S. elections," the official familiar with the matter said, signaling Netanyahu's understanding that the scope of the Israeli strike has the potential to reshape the presidential race.

An Israeli strike on Iranian oil facilities could send energy prices soaring, analysts say, while an

attack on the country's nuclear research program could erase any remaining red lines governing Israel's conflict with Tehran, triggering further escalation and risking a more direct U.S. military role. Netanyahu's stated plan to go after military sites instead, as Israel did after Iran's attack in April, was met with relief in Washington.

Netanyahu was in a "more moderated place" in that discussion than he had previously been, said the U.S. official, describing the call between the two leaders. The apparent softening of the prime minister's stance factored into Biden's decision to send a powerful missile defense system to Israel, both officials said.

After that call, the president was more inclined to do it, the U.S. official said.

On Sunday, the Pentagon announced that it was deploying its anti-ballistic THAAD battery system to Israel, along with about 100 U.S. military personnel. The

system, which officials say is expected to arrive in the coming days, "underscores the United States' ironclad commitment to the defense of Israel," the Pentagon statement said.

The Israeli strike on Iran would be carried out before the U.S. elections on Nov. 5, the official familiar with the matter said, because a lack of action could be interpreted by Iran as a sign of weakness. "It will be one in a series of responses," she said.

Zohar Palti, a former intelligence director for Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, said Netanyahu would need to balance Washington's appeals for moderation with the public demand in Israel for an overwhelming response.

"The Iranians have lost every measure of restraint that they used to have," he said. "Without the U.S. weapons, Israel cannot fight," Palti acknowledged. "But it is Israel who takes the risks" and "knows how to do the job."

Sending a THAAD to Israel adds to strain on US Army

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The deployment of a U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery to Israel and roughly 100 soldiers to operate it will add to already difficult strains on the Army's air defense forces and potential delays in modernizing its missile defense systems, Army leaders said Monday.

The service's top two leaders declined to provide details on the deployment ordered by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin over the weekend. But they spoke broadly about their concerns as the demand for THAAD and Patriot missile batteries grows because of the war

in Ukraine and the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah and Hamas militants.

"The air defense, artillery community is the most stressed. They have the highest 'optempo' really of any part of the Army," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said, using a phrase meaning the pace of operations. "We're just constantly trying to be as disciplined as we can, and give Secretary Austin the information he needs to accurately assess the strain on the force when he's considering future operational deployments."

Wormuth said the Army has to be careful about "what we take

on. But of course, in a world this volatile, you know, sometimes we have to do what we have to do."

The Pentagon announced the THAAD deployment Sunday, saying it was authorized at the direction of President Joe Biden. U.S. officials said the system will be moved from a location in the continental United States to Israel and that it will take a number of days for it and the soldiers to arrive. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of troop movements.

The move adds to what have been growing tensions within the Defense Department about

what weapons the U.S. can afford to send to Ukraine, Israel or elsewhere and the resulting risks to America's military readiness and its ability to protect the nation.

"Everybody wants U.S. Army air defense forces," Gen. Randy George, Army chief of staff, said Monday as he and Wormuth took questions from journalists at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual conference. "This is our most deployed formation."

The decision to send the THAAD came as Israel is widely believed to be preparing a military response to Iran's Oct. 1 attack, when it fired roughly 180 missiles into Israel.

Harris, Trump hold rival events in battleground Pennsylvania

Associated Press

OAKS, Pa. — Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump took their fight for Pennsylvania to opposite ends of the state Monday, with Harris speaking in the northwest corner in Erie and Trump in the southeastern suburbs of Philadelphia.

Democrat Harris and Republican Trump have been making regular appearances in what is the country's largest battleground state — it was Harris' 10th visit to Pennsylvania this campaign season, and just last week Trump made stops in both Scranton and Reading.

Harris at an evening campaign rally homed in on Trump's comments over the weekend suggesting that the U.S. military could potentially be used to deal with "the enemy from within."

She argued that the comments made in a Fox News "Sunday Morning Futures" in-

terview are the latest example of threatening rhetoric from the former president that should concern Americans about what a potential second Trump term could look like.

"He considers anyone who doesn't support him or who will not bend to his will an enemy of our country," Harris said after playing a clip of the comment on the jumbo screen in the Erie arena. "This is among the reasons I believe so strongly that a second Trump term would be a huge risk for America and dangerous."

She added that Trump is increasingly displaying "unstable and unhinged" behavior.

Trump made the comment in response to a question about "outside agitators" potentially disrupting Election Day, pivoting to what he said is a foe closer to home.

"I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within," Trump said. He added: "We have some very bad people. We

have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the big — and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

Trump's running mate, Sen. JD Vance, defended Trump's comments during a campaign stop in Minneapolis earlier Monday.

"Is it a justifiable use of those assets if they're rioting and looting and burning cities down to the ground? Of course it is. Right?" Vance told reporters. "I think the question is, is it a justifiable use of assets, depends on what's actually happening."

Trump beat Hillary Clinton by more than 40,000 votes in Pennsylvania on his way to winning the presidency in 2016. But Joe Biden, a Scranton native, beat Trump by about 80,000 votes in the state four years ago.

GOP facing resentment for overseas ballot suits

The Washington Post

Republican lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and North Carolina challenging the legitimacy of overseas ballots have prompted a backlash among military personnel, spouses, veterans and elected officials.

Scores of veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces have posted online or contacted their elected representatives out of concern their votes might not be counted. Military and elected leaders, along with voting rights advocates, have decried the lawsuits as well, calling them a betrayal to the men and women serving the country overseas.

"Literally, these are the people who are putting it all on the line for what we have in America," said Allison Jaslow, an Army veteran who served in Iraq and now is chief executive of the nonprofit Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "And we're going to compromise their ability to have a say in how they vote for who sends them to war? It's just beyond the pale."

A group of House Democrats over the weekend called on Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to guarantee that overseas Americans, including those serving in the armed forces, retain their right to participate fully in U.S. elections, after six Pennsylvania Republican members of Congress filed a lawsuit last week.

The Pennsylvania suit asks a federal judge to order that all overseas ballots, including those from military personnel and their families, be set aside and the identities of the voters confirmed before the votes are counted.

Destroyer docks in Japan armed with high-energy laser weapon

By ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A guided-missile destroyer equipped with a high-energy laser joined the U.S. 7th Fleet over the weekend to begin testing the weapon's effectiveness at sea. Sailors in dress whites manned the rails Saturday as the USS Preble pulled into Tokyo Bay and moored at Yokosuka, where it became the 10th destroyer assigned to De-

stroyer Squadron 15.

The Preble's arrival from Naval Base San Diego brings a new capability to the fleet.

It is the only U.S. warship equipped with the High-Energy Laser with Integrated Optical-dazzler and Surveillance, or HELIOS, system. The 60-kilowatt directed energy weapons system is designed to counter small watercraft or drones and collect long-range intelligence, according to manufacturer

Lockheed Martin's website.

HELIOS can "dazzle," or blind or impair sensors aboard surveillance drones, or punch a hole through drones, low-flying aircraft and, in some cases, missiles, according to Lockheed Martin executive Joe Ottaviano, quoted by National Defense magazine in February 2021.

HELIOS is currently in the at-sea testing phase, Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Seth Koenig said Tuesday.

Migrant deaths in NM have increased tenfold

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Ten times as many migrants died in New Mexico near the U.S.-Mexico border in each of the last two years compared with just five years ago as smuggling gangs steer them — exhausted, dehydrated and malnourished — mostly into the hot desert, canyons or mountains west of El Paso, Texas.

During the first eight months of 2024, the bodies of 108 presumed migrants mostly from Mexico and Central America were found near the border in New Mexico and often less than 10 miles from El Paso, according to the most recent data. The remains of 113 presumed migrants were found in New Mexico in 2023, compared with nine in 2020 and 10 in 2019.

It's not clear exactly why more migrants are being found dead in that area, but many experts say

smugglers are treating migrants more harshly and bringing them on paths that could be more dangerous in extreme summer temperatures.

The influx has taxed the University of New Mexico's Office of the Medical Investigator, which identifies the dead and conducts autopsies that almost always show the cause as heat-related.

"Our reaction was sadness, horror and surprise because it had been very consistently low for as long as anyone can remember," said Heather Edgar, a forensic anthropologist with the office.

Serving the entire state, the office over two years has added deputy medical investigators to handle the extra deaths on top of the usual 2,500 forensic cases.

"We'd always had three deputies down in that area, and I think we have nine or 10 now," Edgar said of New Mexico's eastern mi-

gration corridor.

Immigration and border security are among voters' top concerns heading into the Nov. 5 presidential contest, but the candidates have focused on keeping migrants out of the U.S. and deporting those already here.

The increase in deaths is a humanitarian concern as smugglers guide migrants into New Mexico through fencing gaps at the border city of Sunland Park and over low-lying barriers west of the nearby Santa Teresa Port of Entry.

New Mexico officials are targeting human-smuggling networks, recently arresting 16 people and rescuing 91 trafficking victims. U.S. Customs and Border Protection added a surveillance blimp to monitor the migration corridor near its office in Santa Teresa, in Doña Ana County. Movable 33-foot towers use radar to scan the area.

U.S. officials in recent years have added 30 more push-button beacons that summon emergency medical workers along remote stretches of the border at New Mexico and western Texas. They have also set up more than 500 placards with location coordinates and instructions to call 911 for help.

Dylan Corbett, executive director of the faith-based Hope Border Institute in El Paso, said 10-member church teams recently started dropping water bottles for migrants in the deadly New Mexico corridor alongside fluttering blue flags.

"Part of the problem is that organized crime has become very systematic in the area," Corbett said of the increased deaths. He also blamed heightened border enforcement in Texas and new U.S. asylum restrictions that President Joe Biden introduced in June and tightened last month.

FEMA workers in NC change recovery efforts after threats

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Federal disaster workers paused and then changed some of their hurricane-recovery efforts in North Carolina, including abandoning door-to-door visits, after receiving threats that they could be targeted by a militia, officials said, as the government response to Helene is targeted by runaway disinformation.

The threats emerged over the weekend. The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office said in a statement Monday that it received a call Saturday about a man with an assault rifle who made a comment "about possibly harming" employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency working in the hard-hit areas of Lake Lure and Chimney Rock, in the North Carolina mountains.

Authorities got a description of a suspect's vehicle and li-

cense plate and later identified him as William Jacob Parsons, 44, of Bostic, a small community about 60 miles west of Charlotte. Sheriff's officials said in a statement that Parsons — who was armed with a handgun and a rifle — was charged with "going armed to the terror of the public," a misdemeanor. He was released after posting bond.

In a Facebook post, Ashe County Sheriff B. Phil Howell said FEMA put some work on hold as it assessed the threats.

"Stay calm and steady during our recovery, help folks and please don't stir the pot," Howell wrote Sunday.

FEMA confirmed in a statement Monday that it adjusted operations. It emphasized that disaster-recovery centers remain open and that FEMA continues "to help the people of North Carolina with their recovery."

Board: Union representation petitions doubled under Biden

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There has been a doubling of petitions by workers to have union representation during President Joe Biden's administration, according to figures released Tuesday by the National Labor Relations Board.

There were 3,286 petitions filed with the government in fiscal 2024, up from 1,638 in 2021. This marks the first increase in unionization petitions during a presidential term since Gerald Ford's administration, which ended 48 years ago. During Donald Trump's presidency, union petitions declined 22%.

President Joe Biden said in a statement that the increase showed that his administration has done more for workers than his predecessor, Trump, the current Republican nominee who is vying to return to the White House in November's election.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, is relying heavily on union support to help turn out voters in this year's presidential election. But Trump with his push for tariffs on foreign imports has a blue collar appeal that has for some unionized workers mattered more than his record his office.

Just 16% of voters in 2020 belonged to a union household. Biden secured 56% of them, compared to Trump getting 42%, according to AP VoteCast. The margin of support in union households in this year's election could decide the outcome of potentially close races in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Workers have also become more empowered to report what they judge to be unfair labor practices. The NLRB said its field offices received a total of 24,578 cases last fiscal year, the most in more than a decade.

Microsoft: Cybercriminals aiding US foes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russia, China and Iran are increasingly relying on criminal networks to lead cyberespionage and hacking operations against adversaries like the U.S., according to a report on digital threats published Tuesday by Microsoft.

The growing collaboration between authoritarian governments and criminal hackers has alarmed national security officials and cybersecurity experts who say it represents the increasingly blurred lines between actions directed by Beijing or the Kremlin aimed at undermining rivals and the illicit activities of groups typically more interested in financial gain.

In one example, Microsoft's analysts found that a criminal hacking group with links to Iran infiltrated an Israeli dating site and then tried to sell or ransom

the personal information it obtained. Microsoft concluded the hackers had two motives: to embarrass Israelis and make money.

In another, investigators identified a Russian criminal network that infiltrated more than 50 electronic devices used by the Ukrainian military in June, apparently seeking access and information that could aid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

There was no obvious financial motive for the group, aside from any payment they may have received from Russia.

For nations like Russia, China, Iran and North Korea, which has its own ties to hacking groups, teaming up with cybercriminals offers a marriage of convenience with benefits for both sides. Governments can boost the volume and effectiveness of cyber activities without

added cost. For the criminals, it offers new avenues for profit and the promise of government protection.

"We're seeing in each of these countries this trend towards combining nation-state and cybercriminal activities," said Tom Burt, Microsoft's vice president of customer security and trust.

So far there is no evidence suggesting that Russia, China or Iran are sharing resources with each other or working with the same criminal networks, Burt said.

But he said the growing use of private cyber "mercenaries" shows how far America's adversaries will go to weaponize the internet.

Microsoft's report analyzed cyber threats between July 2023 and June 2024, looking at how criminals and foreign nations are using hacking, spear

phishing, malware and other techniques to gain access and control over a target's system. The company says its customers face more than 600 million such incidents every day.

Networks tied to Russia, China and Iran have also targeted American voters, using fake websites and social media accounts to spread false and misleading claims about the 2024 election.

Analysts at Microsoft agree with the assessment of U.S. intelligence officials who say Russia is targeting the campaign of Vice President Kamala Harris, while Iran is working to oppose former President Donald Trump.

China, meanwhile, has largely stayed out of the presidential race, focusing its disinformation on down-ballot races for Congress or state and local office.

Judge: Sex offender signs on Halloween unconstitutional

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Many states have laws designed to keep children away from convicted sexual offenders on Halloween night, such as curfews for those on offender registries and requirements to keep their porch lights off.

But a Missouri law mandating a yard sign was a step too far, a judge ruled.

A 2008 law required registered offenders in Missouri to post signs on Oct. 31 that read "No candy or treats at this residence."

U.S. District Judge John Ross ruled this month that the provision violated the First Amendment by forcing "compelled speech," depriving those on the registry "of their freedom to speak in their own words or to not speak at all."

The ruling lets stand other

provisions of the Missouri law that require people on the registry on Halloween to remain inside their home from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and to leave their outdoor lights off.

The Missouri sign law is unique among states, but some cities and counties have tried similar laws that were either struck down in court or withdrawn as part of lawsuit settlements.

Ross' ruling about the Missouri sign law drew a mixed response. Some said extraordinary steps are necessary on a night when children flood the streets and often knock on the doors of strangers. Others said the sign law was unnecessarily cruel.

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey's office said an appeal is planned.

Taliban media stops showing images of humans, animals

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Taliban run-media have stopped showing images of living beings in some Afghan provinces to comply with morality laws, an official confirmed Tuesday.

In August, the country's Vice and Virtue Ministry published laws regulating aspects of everyday life like public transportation, shaving, the media and celebrations reflecting authorities' interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

Article 17 bans the publication of images of living beings, sparking concerns about the consequences for Afghan media and press freedom.

A spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Ministry, Saif ul Islam Khyber, said government media in the provinces of Takhar, Maidan Wardak and Kandahar have been advised not to air or show images of anything

with a soul — meaning people and animals.

Khyber told The Associated Press a day earlier that the ministry was responsible for implementing the morality laws.

He did not clarify if the rules affected all media, including foreign outlets, or only Afghan channels and websites.

Nor did he say how the laws would be enforced or if there was a deadline for compliance.

Hujjatullah Mujadidi, the director of the Afghan Independent Journalists Union, said that Vice and Virtue Ministry officials initially told state media to stop running pictures and videos of living beings. This request was later extended to all media in those provinces.

No other Muslim-majority country imposes similar restrictions, including Iran and Saudi Arabia.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man drops suit in case of wife getting abortion pills

TX AUSTIN — A Texas man who sued his ex-wife's friends for helping her obtain an abortion informed the court that the two sides reached a settlement, forgoing the need for a trial that would have tested his argument that their actions amounted to assisting in a wrongful death.

Attorneys for Marcus Silva and the three women he sued last year filed court papers last week stating they had reached an agreement. Two of the women countersued Silva for invasion of privacy but have also dropped now those claims, according to court records.

As of Friday, the judge hadn't yet signed off on the settlement. Court records didn't include its terms, but a spokesperson for the defendants said the settlement didn't involve any financial terms.

Silva filed a petition last year to sue the friends of his ex-wife, Brittini Silva, for providing her with abortion pills. He claimed that their assistance was tantamount to aiding a murder and was seeking \$1 million in damages, according to court documents.

Appeals court revives suit in tribal fight over casino

AL MONTGOMERY — A federal appeals court on Friday revived a lawsuit filed by one Native American tribe over another's construction of a casino on what they said is historic and sacred land.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated a judge's decision that dismissed the lawsuit

filed by the Oklahoma-based Muscogee (Creek) Nation over the constriction of the casino in Alabama. The three-judge panel directed the trial judge to do a "claim by claim" analysis of whether officials with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in Alabama have sovereign immunity that would prevent them from being sued.

The long-running dispute involves land, known as Hickory Ground, that was home to the Muscogee Nation people before their removal to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. The Poarch Band, a separate tribal nation that shares ancestry with the Muscogee, now owns the land and built one of its Wind Creek casinos on the site.

Man charged in student's killing faces new hearing

GA ATHENS — The man accused of killing a nursing student whose body was found on the University of Georgia campus appeared in court Friday ahead of his scheduled trial next month, as lawyers sparred over whether police acted properly during their investigation.

Jose Ibarra is charged with murder and other crimes in the February killing of Laken Hope Riley. A 10-count indictment accuses Ibarra of hitting the 22-year-old Augusta University College of Nursing student in the head, asphyxiating her and pulling up her clothing with the intent to sexually assault her. Ibarra pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Athens-Clarke County Superior Court Judge H. Patrick Haggard said during a hearing in August that he plans to begin jury

selection on Nov. 13 and proceed with the trial the following week.

Woman fatally shot after crashing car, firing gun

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Police fatally shot a woman who was firing a gun and threatening officers with the weapon following a vehicle crash, authorities said.

The woman was a suspect in an earlier shooting, said police Capt. Valerie Littlejohn. Seven officers who arrived at the scene of the crash tried to make contact with her but opened fire when she threatened them, Littlejohn said.

Authorities will review body-camera video to see if they can get more answers, the police captain said.

None of the seven officers was injured. All were placed on paid leave pending the outcome of the investigation, Littlejohn said.

At least 1 dead in gunfire near university festivities

TN NASHVILLE — Gunfire broke out among a crowd near a Tennessee university Saturday afternoon, killing at least one person and wounding nine others, police said.

A crowd that gathered earlier in the day for homecoming events at Tennessee State University was beginning to thin out when the gunfire erupted between two groups around 5 p.m., said Metro Nashville Police spokesperson Don Aaron. He said shell casings indicate that gunfire was exchanged across a street near campus between the groups.

Metro Nashville Police Commander Anthony McClain said the gunfire didn't appear to be directly related to Tennessee State University events that had included a parade and other festivities earlier in the day. The football game was taking place in another part of town when the gunfire happened.

A police statement on social media said a 24-year-old man died. The victims included two 12-year-olds and a 14-year-old with non-critical injuries, Aaron said.

Green Party's Stein sues over votes not counted

OH COLUMBUS — Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein has filed a lawsuit in federal court over the decision of Ohio election officials not to count votes for her after Anita Rios was named as her running mate by the national party after a state administrative deadline.

Cleveland.com reported that the lawsuit was filed Wednesday in U.S. district court in Columbus by Stein, Rios and three Ohio voters. It alleges that the decision infringes on their constitutional rights to free speech, association, and equal protection and the voting rights of the Ohio-based plaintiffs.

Stein filed as an independent presidential candidate in Ohio because the Green Party lost state recognition several years ago. She listed Rios — the Green Party's 2014 nominee for Ohio governor — as her running mate as a placeholder until the Green Party nominated Butch Ware to run with Stein at their national convention in August.

— From wire reports

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Allen, Bills survive Jets' Hail Mary pass

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills were expecting to go into halftime against the New York Jets with a 10-point lead and all the momentum.

That changed with one eye-popping pass by Aaron Rodgers that sent the Jets and their fans into a frenzy and had social media buzzing.

"Kind of a gut punch," Allen said.

But he and the Bills overcame Rodgers' 52-yard Hail Mary touchdown throw as the first half ended to outlast the Jets 23-20 on Monday night and take early season control of the AFC East.

"Fighting through adversity, getting in at halftime, regrouping, saying let's just control one play at a time," Allen said. "We didn't score as many points as I'd like in the second half, but found a way."

Allen threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score and Tyler Bass made up for an

earlier miss by kicking a go-ahead 22-yard field goal with 3:43 left to help the Bills (4-2) snap a two-game skid. They have never lost three straight with Allen starting at quarterback.

"It was a gritty win led by Josh," coach Sean McDermott said.

The loss was the third in a row for the Jets (2-4), who capped a tumultuous week during which coach Robert Saleh was fired, defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich replaced him as the interim coach and offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett was demoted from play-calling duties in favor of Todd Downing.

"Yeah, it was a weird week," Rodgers said.

Normally reliable kicker Greg Zuerlein missed two potential go-ahead field goals for the Jets, hitting the left upright on both.

The game was also filled with yellow penalty flags — both teams had 11 penalties.

Allen finished 19-for-25 for 215 yards. Rookie Ray Davis, filling in for the injured James Cook, ran for 97 yards on 20 carries and caught three passes for 55 yards.

With the Jets trailing 23-20 in the closing minutes, Rodgers threw deep for Mike Williams but the pass was short and Taron Johnson — back after breaking his right forearm in the season opener — came up with a diving interception. Williams was evaluated for a head injury after the play.

Allen and the Bills were able to then run out the clock and seal the win. They're the only team in the AFC East with a winning record.

"Our No. 1 goal is making the playoffs and you do that by winning your division," Allen said. "We understand the gravity of this type of game, us being 4-2 with a 2½-game lead with a head-to-head win, as opposed to being 3-3 and in second place."

Rodgers was 23-for-35 for 294

yards with two touchdowns and the INT, and Breece Hall had 113 yards rushing and 56 receiving.

"I thought we were going to have a big night on offense," Rodgers said.

It certainly seemed they were headed for that.

With the Jets at their own 48 and perhaps hoping to get into field-goal range before halftime, Rodgers took a few steps back and danced around a bit before launching the ball toward the end zone. Allen Lazard reached up in front of two Bills defenders and fell on his back.

After a quick huddle, officials ruled it a touchdown.

"When you catch those waves of momentum, you've got to ride it," Ulbrich said. "And you've got to finish a team, which we didn't do."

The Jets got in an early rhythm on offense with Downing calling the plays as Rodgers got New York into the red zone. The Jets settled for a 34-yard field goal by Zuerlein.

Wide receiver Adams to join Rodgers with Jets

Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams are finally reunited after a year of speculation — and now they'll try to save the New York Jets' sinking season.

The Jets agreed to terms Tuesday to acquire the disgruntled Adams from the Las Vegas Raiders, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

New York is sending a conditional third-round pick in next year's draft that could become a second-rounder, but it is pending a physical for the wide receiver, one of the people told the AP on condition of anonymity because the teams didn't announce the deal.

NFL Network was the first to report the trade.

The 31-year-old Adams immediately boosts a Jets offense

that has been inconsistent through the first part of the season. The three-time All-Pro joins Garrett Wilson to give Rodgers two No. 1-caliber wide receivers to throw to, complementing fellow receivers Mike Williams, Allen Lazard and Xavier Gipson, tight end Tyler Conklin and running backs Breece Hall and Braelon Allen.

Adams, who missed the Raiders' last three games with a hamstring injury, reportedly told the team he wanted out of Las Vegas — and the team was willing to accommodate his request.

And now he's back with Rodgers, the quarterback with whom he enjoyed eight seasons of success catching passes from in Green Bay.

It seemed inevitable, espe-

cially when the Jets reportedly showed interest in Adams last year at the NFL trade deadline. Rodgers said at a celebrity golf tournament over the summer: "I love Davante. I can't wait to play with him ... again." With a smile, Rodgers said during training camp he meant on the golf course, but it was enough to fuel speculation that at some point — somehow — the Jets would move to bring in Adams.

The deal came less than 12 hours after the Jets lost 23-20 to the Buffalo Bills, a game in which Rodgers threw a Hail Mary just before halftime but also was intercepted on New York's final drive for the second straight week.

The trade also caps what has been a tumultuous last seven days for the Jets. Two days after losing to Minnesota in Lon-

don, owner Woody Johnson fired head coach Robert Saleh on Tuesday and defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich was tapped to replace him as the interim. Ulbrich then demoted offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett and replaced him with pass game coordinator Todd Downing on Wednesday.

And now the Jets have made a major deal to bring in Adams, one of Rodgers' best friends and favorite teammates. Adams has caught 615 passes from Rodgers for 7,517 yards and 68 touchdowns, all in Green Bay.

Adams' departure from Las Vegas was expected after reports surfaced that he no longer wanted to be there — and the Jets immediately became a likely landing spot because of his relationship with Rodgers.

Yanks take ALCS opener over erratic Guardians

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Juan Soto's home run punctured Cleveland pitching, which then went wild.

Soto put New York ahead in a three-run third inning, Carlos Rodón got his first postseason win and the Yankees beat the Guardians 5-2 on Monday night in an AL Championship Series opener that included Cleveland throwing five wild pitches and walking nine batters.

Giancarlo Stanton added his 13th career postseason homer for the Yankees, who are seeking a record 41st AL pennant and their first since winning the 2009 title.

"Getting the start-off win is big," Stanton said. "It's a message in its own."

Cleveland became the second team to throw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches in a postseason inning and tied a postseason record with five overall. Guardians pitchers walked six in a nine-

batter span and nine overall.

"They don't chase a whole lot," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said. "If I take something away from tonight, we just need to attack the zone better."

New York batters have walked 36 times in five postseason games.

"That's what they're capable of. That's in their DNA," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "We beat that over — we hammer it."

Game 2 was at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday night. Entering this year, teams taking the opener of a series with a 2-3-2 format have won 66 of 99 times.

Soto came in 7-for-11 with two homers against Cobb. Before a sellout crowd of 47,264 that included pop star Taylor Swift, Soto hit his first postseason homer for New York when he drove a high slider from Alex Cobb into the Yankees' bullpen in right-center.

He made a circle sign toward the relievers with his hands as he rounded first.

"It's only me and the bullpen," Soto said, smiling. "We keep it to ourselves."

Rodón rebounded from the Yankees' only loss in the Division Series, limiting the Guardians to a pair of singles before Brayan Rocchio's sixth-inning homer.

"The goal was to just stay in control, stay in control of what I can do, obviously physically and emotionally," Rodón said. "I thought I executed that well tonight."

Stanton's seventh-inning homer boosted the lead to 5-1. Steven Kwan cut the Guardians' deficit when he extended his postseason hitting streak to a team-record 11 games with an RBI single in the eighth off Clay Holmes.

Luke Weaver relieved with runners at the corners. He

struck out pinch-hitter Will Brennan and retired José Ramírez on a groundout, and then followed a leadoff walk in the ninth with three straight strikeouts for his fourth save this postseason.

Making his first playoff appearance in 11 years, Cobb walked the bases loaded in the third and rookie reliever Joey Cantillo threw a pair of run-scoring wild pitches.

Cantillo had four wild pitches overall, one shy of the record for a postseason game set by Rick Ankiel of St. Louis in a 2000 NL Division Series opener against Atlanta. The only other time a team scored twice on wild pitches in a postseason inning was by Minnesota against Oakland's Tim Lincecum and Ted Lilly in the 2002 AL Division Series.

"That performance was obviously the difference in the game, so that's on me," Cantillo said.

Lindor, Mets stop Dodgers' scoreless streak to tie NLCS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The New York Mets weren't sure what they were going to get with the Los Angeles Dodgers sending out a parade of relievers in a bullpen game.

They found out right away.

Francisco Lindor and Mark Vientos homered as the Mets stopped the Dodgers' record-tying postseason scoreless streak in a 7-3 victory on Monday, tying the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Lindor added to his storybook season with a leadoff homer in the first inning against Ryan Brasier. Vientos delivered during New York's five-run second, connecting for a grand slam against Landon Knack.

Before Lindor went deep, Los Angeles had a string of 33 consecutive scoreless innings. Jack Flaherty led the Dodgers to a 9-0 victory in Game 1 of the NLCS on Sunday night.

"I didn't know it," Lindor said of the Dodgers' streak. "I was just trying to have a quality at-bat and get the guys going."

Sean Manaea opened Game 2 with four shutout innings for New York. He was charged with three runs, two earned, and two hits in five-plus innings. Closer Edwin

Diaz earned a four-out save.

"Having a lead like that just makes it a little easier," Manaea said. "Just trying to attack guys and get ahead and go right after them."

Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts against Manaea and two walks, including one against Diaz. He is 0-for-19 with the bases empty in his first postseason.

"He's one of the best hitters in the league, but I've got really good stuff," Diaz said. "I just go after him. Hit the ball, if you get to two strikes, I will make you chase."

Manager Dave Roberts has no intention of moving Ohtani out of the leadoff spot.

"I want Shohei to get five at-bats a game," Roberts said. "I think he's our best hitter, and I want him up there five times."

Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday in New York.

"It's not a sprint," Manaea said. "It's definitely going to be a grind of a series."

The Mets jumped all over the Dodgers after flopping in the opener.

Lindor fouled off four consecutive pitches from Brasier before sending a 395-foot shot

to right for his leadoff homer.

"When you're facing a bullpen day, I think it's hard to game plan but you've got to go out there make adjustments, whether it's putting the ball in play, moving a guy over, getting a guy in," rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "Those are the little things that you have to do to win games in the playoffs when you're facing an elite pitching staff."

Knack took over for LA in the second and gave up a leadoff single to Starling Marte and then walked Jesse Winker. One out later, Tyrone Taylor doubled to left, scoring Marte.

After Francisco Alvarez popped to the shortstop, Lindor was intentionally walked to load the bases. Vientos sent a 391-foot shot to center for the third grand slam in Mets playoff history. That extended the lead to 6-0 and silenced the sellout crowd of 52,926.

"You've got Francisco ahead of me, and he hit a home run earlier in the game, so they would rather take a chance on me than him," Vientos said. "But I use it as motivation. I'm like, 'All right, you want me up? I'm going to show you, whatever.'"

Allen posts shutout as Devils top Utah

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Jake Allen registered his first shutout with New Jersey and rookie defenseman Seamus Casey scored early in the second period as the Devils downed the Utah Hockey Club 3-0 on Monday.

Stefan Noesen and Nico Hischier also scored for the Devils, who won for the fourth time in five games. Allen had 20 saves. New Jersey missed the playoffs last year.

Utah lost for the first time in four games. They won their home opener over Chicago, then defeated the Islanders and Rangers in overtime to start their current road trip.

Casey scored his third goal of the season on the power play at 1:14 of the middle period. Noesen scored with an assist to Casey at 8:13 of the second and Hischier added a power-play goal at 10:13 of the third.

Karel Vejmelka made 30 saves for Utah in his first start this season.

Panthers 4, Bruins 3: Sam Reinhart scored on a power play and added a short-handed goal

that gave visiting Florida the lead for good in the second period as the defending Stanley Cup champions beat Boston.

Anton Lundell also scored twice and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 25 shots for Florida, which has eliminated Boston from the playoffs in each of the last two seasons.

Mason Lohrei and Johnny Beecher each had a goal and an assist for the Bruins, and Mark Kastelic had three assists. Jeremy Swayman, making his third straight start after missing the opener following a contract holdout, made 22 saves in his first loss of the season.

Rangers 4, Red Wings 1: Chris Kreider scored the go-ahead goal on the power play late in the second period and host New York beat Detroit.

Kreider tipped Mika Zibanejad's shot with 2:55 left in the middle period to snap a 1-1 tie after the teams traded goals in the first. Alexis Lafreniere, Reilly Smith and Zibanejad also scored for the Rangers, and Igor Shesterkin finished with 31 saves.

Dylan Larkin scored for Detroit with 2 seconds left in the first after Lafreniere opened the scoring for the Rangers with 8:15 to go. Alex Lyon had 24 saves for the Red Wings in his first start of the season. The Red Wings were playing their first road game. They beat Nashville 3-0 on Saturday after losing their season opener 6-3 to Pittsburgh.

Penguins 6, Canadiens 3: Lars Eller had two goals against his former team, Evgeni Malkin had a goal and two assists, and visiting Pittsburgh beat Montreal.

Kris Letang, Kevin Hayes and Rickard Rakell also scored for Pittsburgh, and Tristan Jarry stopped 24 shots.

Sidney Crosby was held off the scoresheet, keeping him one point shy of 1,600. The 37-year-old is looking to become just the 10th player in NHL history to reach the mark.

Kaiden Guhle, Juraj Slafkovsky and Emil Heineman scored for Montreal. Nick Suzuki and Mike Matheson each had two assists and Sam Montembeault

made 26 saves.

Islanders 6, Avalanche 2: Brock Nelson scored his first two goals of the season 2:49 apart in the second period, and New York beat Colorado to give coach Patrick Roy a win in his first game back in Denver.

Roy won two of his four Stanley Cups with Colorado and coached the team for three years before stepping down a month before training camp in 2016.

Anthony Duclair, Kyle Palmieri, Anders Lee and Mathew Barzal also scored for the Islanders, and Ilya Sorokin stopped 32 shots.

Senators 8, Kings 7 (OT): Josh Norris capped a two-goal effort with the game-winning goal 56 seconds into overtime and host Ottawa beat Los Angeles.

Zack MacEwen also had a pair for the Senators, with Jake Sanderson, Drake Batherson, Thomas Chabot and Claude Giroux also chipping in.

Kevin Fiala and Alex Laferriere each scored a pair for the Kings.

Hendrick won't appeal Bowman disqualification

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hendrick Motorsports said Monday it will not appeal Alex Bowman's disqualification at Charlotte Motor Speedway that eliminated him from NASCAR title contention.

Bowman finished Sunday's race at The Roval in 18th-place — high enough to eliminate Joey Logano of Team Penske from the playoff field by four points.

But NASCAR said the No. 48 Chevrolet failed a post-race inspection and disqualified Bowman for failing to meet minimum weight requirements. It dropped him to 38th and Logano claimed that spot in the playoff field.

Hendrick had the right to appeal but said in a statement it would not.

"NASCAR allows a clear margin to account for the difference in pre- and post-race weight. After a thorough review by our

team and the sanctioning body, we simply did not give ourselves enough margin to meet the post-race requirement," the team said in a statement. "Although unintentional, the infraction was avoidable. We are extremely disappointed to lose a playoff spot under these circumstances and apologize to our fans and partners."

All playoff cars go through inspection after a race.

NASCAR said Hendrick was given multiple opportunities to fuel the car, purge the water system and add water in an attempt to make the minimum weight. But when the car went back through the weigh station, the Chevy was still light.

The news was especially disappointing to Bowman sponsor Ally, whose chief marketing officer Monday posted on social media that Bowman had earned a spot in the playoffs. He was the highest points getter in

the first round of the playoffs.

"Woke up this morning — after hardly sleeping — not feeling any better," wrote Andrea Brimmer, adding she was "gutted" for Bowman and the "team who have fought for every point this year and deserve to be moving forward."

The eight drivers who will now compete through the third round of the playoffs are Hendrick drivers William Byron, Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson, Team Penske drivers Logano and reigning series champion Ryan Blaney, Joe Gibbs Racing drivers Christopher Bell and Denny Hamlin, and Tyler Reddick of 23XI Racing.

It was a particularly brutal disqualification for Hendrick Motorsports, which celebrated Sunday night claiming half the spots in the playoff field of eight. Now the team heads to this Sunday's race at Las Vegas with only three of its cars still eligible.