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Taliban seize provincial capital Kunduz

BY JOSH SMITH
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban fighters Monday seized the northern city of Kunduz, the first major urban area to fall to the insurgents since the U.S.-led invasion of 2001.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi told The Associated Press that Kunduz “has collapsed into the hands of the Taliban.” The New York Times reported that government forces had fled to the airport located about 6.5 miles south of the center of the city.

The loss of Kunduz was a major setback to Afghanistan’s U.S.-supported forces, who have been struggling to curb Taliban assaults since the U.S. and its NATO allies ended their ground combat mission at the end of 2014.

In a statement released online, the Taliban urged residents in the occupied city to continue their lives as normal, and instructed their fighters not to loot or engage in other abuses.

“Mujahedeen are not thinking of harassing or deriding anyone but have intentions of respecting and bringing serenity to their lives,” the statement said. “Mujahedeen are not thinking about retribution but have come with a message of peace.”

Afghan security forces are conducting strikes on the city overnight, with a plan to launch a counterattack on Tuesday, officials in Kabul told reporters.

As of Monday night, coalition warplanes had not conducted any airstrikes in support of the government troops, said an official with the NATO-led Resolute Support mission. NATO advisers based in Mazar-e-Sharif, about 100 miles west of Kunduz, continue to assist the Afghan security forces, the official added.

In the wee hours of the morning, Taliban fighters swarmed into the capital of Kunduz province, seizing government buildings including a major hospital and freeing hundreds of prisoners from the local jail.

“The government has practi-

cally changed hands,” said Saad Mukhtar, the province’s director of public health, who spoke by phone while in hiding.

The insurgents have attacked Kunduz and other district centers before, but this marked the first time they have been able to push deep into a provincial capital in the months they have been testing Afghan forces no longer aided by combat support from the NATO-led coalition.

After earlier saying government troops had blunted the attack, Sayed Sarwar Husaini, spokesman for the Kunduz police, later confirmed that insurgents took control of significant sections of the city by the afternoon. The attackers freed as many as 500 prisoners from a jail in the city, he said.

Kunduz airfield, reportedly one of the bastions of government control in the city, still hosts a contingent of American special operations troops that are among those involved in a counterterrorism mission as well as training and supporting Afghan special forces. In recent battles in Helmand, U.S.

special operations forces were among those aiding Afghan troops by calling in airstrikes.

The United Nations evacuated all its staff from Kunduz on Monday morning as the assault unfolded, spokesman Dominic Medley said.

Kunduz, a city of about 300,000 in 2013, is about 150 miles north of Kabul near the Tajikistan border and is a major transportation hub for the north of the country.

Kunduz province and its capital city have been the scene of some of the most significant challenges for Afghan security forces since the NATO-led coalition reduced its role to one primarily of training and advising Afghan forces.

Taliban units struck Kunduz from several directions about 2 a.m., according to police and Taliban accounts. One police official estimated the number of militants to be in the hundreds. Residents said fighting continued for hours, including artillery and small-arms fire, as well as rocket strikes by Afghan air force helicopters.

Obama, Putin clash over solution to Syrian crisis

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin clashed Monday over their competing visions for Syria, with Obama urging a political transition to replace the Syrian president but Putin warning it would be a mistake to abandon the current government.

Obama and Putin’s dueling speeches at a United Nations General Assembly summit served as a public preview of their private meeting late Mon-

day. The sit-down marks their first face-to-face encounter in nearly a year and comes amid escalating Russian military engagement in Syria.

Obama said he was open to working with Russia, as well as Iran, to bring Syria’s civil war to an end. He called for a “managed transition” that would result in the ouster of Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose forces have clashed with rebels for more than four years, creating a vacuum for the Islamic State and other extremist groups.

“We must recognize that there cannot be, after so much bloodshed, so much carnage, a return to the prewar status quo,” Obama said.

Putin, however, urged the world to stick with Assad, arguing that his military is the only viable option for defeating the Islamic State.

“We believe it’s a huge mistake to refuse to cooperate with the Syrian authorities, with the government forces, those who are bravely fighting terror face-to-face,” Putin said.

Obama and Putin’s disparate

views of the grim situation in Syria left little indication of how the two countries might work together to end a conflict that has killed more than 250,000 people and has resulted in a flood of refugees.

Despite Obama’s staunch opposition to Assad remaining in power, the U.S. has struggled to energize a political process to push him from power. Russia has long been a major obstacle, shielding Assad from U.N. sanctions and continuing to provide the Syrian government with weapons.

Army report: Negligence led to paratrooper's death

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Negligence by a jump master led to the broken neck and death of a 21-year-old paratrooper from New York who became tangled in another jumper's lines during a 2014 training jump, according to an Army report on the investigation of the death.

Sgt. Shaina Schmigel became tangled in the suspension lines of the next jumper, and the most glaring error was the jump master failing to inspect the static lines of Schmigel's parachute, according to the report obtained by The Fayetteville Observer under the Freedom of Information Act.

The jump master was permanently removed from those duties, according to the report. That person's name was blacked out in the Army's documents.

The 82nd Airborne Division said the death of the paratrooper from Batavia, N.Y., led to a thorough safety review.

Schmigel's static line was loose and it caused her parachute to not open properly when she jumped from a C-17 aircraft, the report said. Schmi-

gel was towed behind the plane and then became entangled in the next jumper's lines, breaking her neck in three places several seconds later, according to the report.

Other soldiers found Schmigel dead on May 30, 2014, when they all landed in the jump zone. The four soldiers assigned to the plane's doors were all performing that duty for the first time, according to the Army's report. It recommended that no more than half the soldiers assigned to safety can be doing that job for the first time.

Schmigel was an intelligence analyst with the 37th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. She had joined the Army in 2010 and was assigned to 2nd Brigade since June 2011.

Her mother told the newspaper that Schmigel spent six months in Iraq, where she would send her. Karie Schmigel saw her daughter for the last time on Mother's Day weekend in 2014 when her daughter insisted on seeing her before she returned to Fort Bragg.

"I'm glad I got to see her," the mother said. "Two weeks later, I lost my daughter."

Did VA official misuse position?

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A senior Department of Veterans Affairs manager hired to clean up a beleaguered regional office in Philadelphia misused her position to create the very vacancy she volunteered for as part of a wider scheme by VA officials to give stealth raises to executives, according to a VA Office of Inspector General report.

The Office of Inspector General had been investigating Philadelphia VA Regional Office Director Diana Rubens since March, after it became known that she had received nearly \$300,000 in compensation to move about 140 miles from Washington to Philadelphia. While the inspector general's office concluded that her moving expenses were allowable, it found she and one other executive had manipulated the VA hiring system to create vacancies they sought

for financial gain in an era of government pay freezes.

The inspector general has made a criminal referral to the District of Columbia U.S. Attorney's Office for actions by Rubens and St. Paul, Minn., Director Kimberly Graves, who is accused of a similar scheme to become director of the St. Paul Veterans Affairs Regional Office. No charges have been filed.

Rubens and Graves retained their salaries, \$181,497 and \$173,949, respectively, despite taking new positions with fewer responsibilities at lower rungs on the federal pay scale. Together, they received about \$400,000 in moving expenses.

A woman who answered the phone in Rubens' office Monday said she was not at work, and Rubens did not respond to an email asking for comment.

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Study: Asians to be largest US immigrant group

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a major shift in immigration patterns over the next 50 years, Asians will have surged past Hispanics to become the largest group of immigrants heading to the United States, according to estimates in a new immigration study.

The study looks in detail at what will happen by 2065, but the actual tipping point comes in 2055.

An increase in Asian and Hispanic immigration also will drive U.S. population growth, with foreign-born residents expected to make up 18 percent of the country's projected 441 million people in 50 years, the

Pew Research Center said in a report being released Monday. This will be a record, higher than the nearly 15 percent during the late 19th century and early 20th century wave of immigration from Europe. Today, immigrants make up 14 percent of the population, an increase from 5 percent in 1965.

The actual change is expected to come in 2055, when Asians will become the largest immigrant group, at 36 percent, compared with Hispanics at 34 percent. White immigrants to America, 80 percent back in 1965, will hover somewhere between 18 and 20 percent, with black immigrants in the 8 percent-to-9 percent range, the study said.

Currently, 47 percent of immigrants living in the U.S. are Hispanic, but by 2065 that number will have dropped to 31 percent. Asians currently make up 26 percent of the immigrant population but in 50 years that percentage is expected to increase to 38 percent.

Pew researchers analyzed a combination of Census Bureau information and its own data to develop its projections.

Despite the increase in Asian immigrants, Hispanics will still make up a larger number actually living inside the U.S., said Mark Hugo Lopez, Pew's director of Hispanic research.

The survey's margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points.

Sailor dies on USS Gladiator

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A sailor died Sunday from a non-hostile-related gunshot wound aboard the USS Gladiator while the ship was in port at the U.S. Navy base in Bahrain, the Navy said.

The Navy is investigating the circumstances of the death, said Cmdr. Kevin Stephens, spokesman for the 5th Fleet, which has its headquarters in Bahrain. He said there was no indication of foul play.

The identity of the sailor will not be released until after notification of family, in accordance with Department of Defense policy.

Steelers lose Big Ben in win

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Ben Roethlisberger was carted off the field with a knee injury in the second half and Pittsburgh's defense came through to give the Steelers a 12-6 victory over the St. Louis Rams on Sunday.

Le'Veon Bell scored from a yard out in the first half in his first game back after a suspension, but the Steelers' focus will be on the status of their star quarterback. Roethlisberger's leg got caught underneath him on a diving, sliding sack by Mark Barron.

There was no immediate word on the extent of Roethlisberger's injury.

Will Allen's interception with 1:56 left set up a field goal by Josh Scobee to put Pittsburgh (2-1) ahead by six points.

Falcons 39, Cowboys 28: Matt Ryan and Julio Jones connected for two touchdowns and Devonta Freeman ran for 141 yards and three scores as visiting Atlanta beat Dallas in the Cowboys' first game without Tony Romo and Dez Bryant.

Freeman's third score early in the fourth quarter capped a rally from a trio of 14-point deficits for the Falcons (3-0), who didn't win their third game until Week 10 last year, and Week 13 in 2013.

Jones had his third straight 100-yard game to start the season, finishing with 164 and a clinching 2-yard score in the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys (2-1) had a six-game winning streak in the regular season broken in backup quarterback Brandon Weeden's ninth straight loss as a starter.

Weeden completed his first 16 passes to start the season, but the run ended with a second-quarter interception that turned the game in the Falcons' favor.

Patriots 51, Jaguars 17: At Foxborough, Mass., Tom Brady became the fourth quarterback in NFL history to throw 400 touchdown passes, connecting for a pair of scores.

Brady completed a 1-yard TD pass to Danny Amendola in the second quarter and added a 13-yard touchdown to Keshawn Martin in the third. In all, Brady completed 33 of 42 passes for 358 yards.

Rob Gronkowski caught four passes for 101 yards for the Patriots (3-0). LeGarrette Blount ran for three 1-yard touchdowns.

It was the most points ever allowed by the Jaguars (1-2).

Seahawks 26, Bears 0: Tyler Lockett returned the second-half kickoff 105 yards for a touchdown. Russell Wilson connected with Jimmy Graham on a 30-yard TD, and host Seattle routed undermanned Chicago.

Seattle led just 6-0 at halftime, but Lockett started a huge second half as he went untouched on a perfectly executed return, the longest in franchise history. Later in the quarter, Wilson found Graham across the middle for his second touchdown catch this season.

Steven Hauschka added four field goals and the Seahawks started the process of erasing an 0-2 start.

Chicago (0-3) was shut out for the first time since 2002 and the fourth time since 1990. Jimmy Clausen started at quarterback in place of Jay Cutler and was 9 of 17 for 63 yards.

Cardinals 47, 49ers 7: Carson Palmer threw for 311 yards and host Arizona returned two of Colin Kaepernick's first four

passes for touchdowns.

Larry Fitzgerald caught nine passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns and Chris Johnson rushed for 110 yards and two scores for the Cardinals (3-0), who won at Chicago 48-23 last week.

It's the first time the franchise has had two 40-point victories in a row since 1969 and its largest margin of victory since a 44-0 win over Houston in 1970.

San Francisco's Kaepernick threw a career-worst four interceptions, two by Tyrann Mathieu, and finished 9 for 19 for 67 yards.

Broncos 24, Lions 12: Peyton Manning converted a fourth down with a 45-yard touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas with 5 seconds left in the first half, and threw an 11-yard TD pass to Owen Daniels with 2:28 remaining to lead visiting Denver to victory.

The last time the Broncos (3-0) won their first three games was in 2013, when they reached the Super Bowl. The Lions (0-3) are off to their worst start since 2010, when they finished 6-10.

Aqib Talib blocked an extra-point kick early in the second quarter to keep Denver's one-point lead. The Broncos later stopped a 2-point conversion run, keeping them ahead 14-12 early in the third quarter.

Matthew Stafford had three turnovers, including a fumble and interception at midfield in the fourth quarter.

Bills 41, Dolphins 14: Tyrod Taylor threw for 277 yards and three scores in his first NFL road start. The Bills totaled 429 yards, intercepted Ryan Tannehill three times in the first half, and led 27-0 before Miami scored late in the third quarter.

Buffalo (2-1) bounced back from a dismal loss at home to New England. The Dolphins (1-2), who began the season with high hopes of ending a seven-year playoff drought, fell into last place in the AFC East with their second consecutive loss.

The Bills improved to 5-2 against Miami over the past four years. They're 18-26 against everyone else during that span.

The victory was especially sweet for former Dolphins Richie Incognito and Charles Clay, who were co-captains for Buffalo.

Texans 19, Buccaneers 9: Ryan Mallett threw for three 228 yards and a touchdown and Alfred Blue had 139 yards rushing for host Houston's first win of the season.

Mallett gave Houston (1-2) the lead on a 5-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Hopkins on the opening drive. The Buccaneers (1-2) went up 9-7 on a TD catch by Charles Sims in the second quarter.

Bucs kicker Kyle Brindza, who made a 58-yard field goal early in the second quarter, missed an extra point and three field goals in the second half.

Jameis Winston threw for 261 yards with a touchdown and an interception for Tampa Bay.

Eagles 24, Jets 17: Darren Sproles returned a punt 89 yards for a score and added a 1-yard touchdown run for visiting Philadelphia's first win.

Sam Bradford threw a TD pass to Ryan Mathews, who also rushed for 108 yards while starting in place of the injured DeMarco Murray. The Eagles (1-2) improved to 10-0 all-time against the Jets (2-1), who were coming off a victory at Indianapolis last Monday night.

New York's Ryan Fitzpatrick threw touchdown passes to Brandon Marshall and Jeremy Kerley, but he also was intercepted three times.

Raiders 27, Browns 20: Derek Carr threw two touchdown passes, Latavius Murray rushed for 139 yards and Oakland ended an 11-game road losing streak.

Carr connected with Andre Holmes and Seth Roberts in the first half and the Raiders (2-1) held off a late Cleveland comeback to win their first road game since Nov. 17, 2013.

The Browns (1-2) were driving for a tying TD in the final minute, but Charles Woodson intercepted Josh McCown with 38 seconds left.

Carr, who went 0-8 on the road as a rookie in 2014, finished 20 of 32 for 134 yards.

Bengals 28, Ravens 24: Andy Dalton threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Green with 2:10 left, and Cincinnati remained unbeaten. Host Baltimore dropped to 0-3 for the first time in team history.

The Bengals (3-0) blew a 14-0 lead and twice trailed in the fourth quarter before Dalton brought them back by picking apart the porous Baltimore pass defense. Dalton went 20 for 32 for 383 yards and three touchdowns. His favorite target was Green, who finished with 10 catches for a career-high 227 yards and two scores.

Baltimore lost despite getting 362 yards passing from Joe Flacco, who twice connected with Steve Smith for touchdowns. Smith had 13 catches for 186 yards.

Colts 35, Titans 33: Andrew Luck threw two touchdown passes 56 seconds apart in the fourth quarter as he rallied visiting Indianapolis.

Luck improved to 7-0 against Tennessee with another stunning comeback. The Colts (1-2) trailed 27-14 before Luck got going. He drove the Colts 98 yards before hitting Phillip Dorsett on a 35-yard TD with 6:49 left.

Dwight Lowery intercepted two passes by rookie Marcus Mariota, one for a 69-yard TD.

The Titans (1-2) have lost 13 of 14 against their AFC South rival.

Panthers 27, Saints 22: At Charlotte, N.C., Cam Newton threw for 315 yards and a pair of touchdowns to tight end Greg Olsen and also ran for a score.

Luke McCown, starting in place of the injured Drew Brees, completed 31 of 38 passes for 310 yards but it wasn't enough to save New Orleans (0-3). It was the first game Brees has missed because of injury since joining the Saints in 2006.

Newton ran for a 13-yard TD on a bootleg as the Panthers started 3-0 for the first time since reaching the Super Bowl in the 2003 season.

Carolina cornerback Josh Norman sealed the game with a leaping interception in the end zone with 1:09 remaining.

Vikings 31, Chargers 14: Minnesota's Adrian Peterson plowed through visiting San Diego's defense for 126 yards and two scores on 20 rushes in three quarters.

Chad Greenway scored on a 91-yard interception return for the Vikings (2-1). The Chargers are 1-2.

Rivers was pulled for Kellen Clemens midway through the fourth quarter when the deficit reached 24 points. Sacked four times for a loss of 28 yards, Rivers went 21-for-34 for 246 yards with two turnovers.

QB injuries piling up

The Associated Press

Especially in this fantasy-football-fueled age, the NFL knows its product is at its most popular when face-of-the-franchise quarterbacks are throwing for gobs of yards and TD after TD.

So when guys such as Ben Roethlisberger, Tony Romo and Drew Brees are missing time with injuries, the league might think it needs to try something new to protect QBs. Here's the problem with jumping to the conclusion that leaky offensive lines are to blame: Heading into Monday night, games are averaging only 3.98 sacks, tied with 2010 for the second fewest through Week 3 since 1970, according to STATS.

Pittsburgh's Roethlisberger, a two-time Super Bowl champ, was the latest high-profile passer to go down, hurting his left knee in the third quarter of the Steelers' 12-6 win over the St. Louis Rams on Sunday.

"I've never seen him down," receiver Antonio Brown said about Big Ben, "so I was a little shocked."

Roethlisberger reportedly could miss about a month. That's about half as long as the Dallas Cowboys might be without Romo, whose collarbone was broken last week. No surprise here: Without Romo, Dallas lost for the first time this season.

The New Orleans Saints played without Brees, who has a shoulder problem; they lost, too. The Chicago Bears didn't have Jay Cutler and not only did they lose, but, boy, was it ugly: They punted all 10 times they had the football.

Then again, the Saints and Bears are a combined 0-6, so it might not really matter who's playing quarterback.

In case you missed it, here are other hot topics after the NFL's third regular-season Sunday:

Mega-Julio: There might be a new "best receiver in the NFL" right now — not Calvin "Megatron" Johnson or Larry Fitzgerald, but Atlanta's Julio Jones. His 12 catches for 164 yards and a pair of TDs helped the Falcons beat the Cowboys 39-28 and become the first NFL team to open 3-0 after overcoming a fourth-quarter deficit in each game. Jones gained at least 135 yards through the air in every game — the first time anyone has done that. And his 34 catches are a record for a season's first three games.

Flops: Baltimore and Detroit joined New Orleans and Chicago at 0-3. One of these is not like the others, though: The Ravens won a playoff game last season ... and they have never been 0-3.

All day: At least for a day, Adrian Peterson once again appeared to be, well, Adrian Peterson, after missing nearly a full season because of a child-abuse case. He bounced off defenders, sped around them or just plain knocked them aside, running for 126 yards and a couple of scores on 20 carries in Minnesota's 31-14 victory over San Diego. "Yeah, I think I'm back," the 2012 MVP declared.

Tip o' the Kaep: Colin Kaepernick turned in one of the most abysmal performances in NFL history in San Francisco's 47-7 loss to Arizona: Two of his first four throws results in pick-6s; four interceptions in all; 9 of 19 for 67 yards; quarterback rating of 16.7.



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Nats' Harper, Papelbon fight

The Washington Post

The Washington Nationals' disappointing season reached a dreadful new low on Sunday afternoon. The day after the Nationals were eliminated from playoff contention, lightning-rod closer Jonathan Papelbon had his left hand around star outfielder Bryce Harper's throat in a quarrel that was broken up by teammates in the bottom of the eighth inning of a woeful 12-5 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies.

After Harper flared out and jogged to first, he walked toward the dugout, where Papelbon, standing at the railing, said, "Run that out" and more. Papelbon followed Harper to the dugout steps and kept talking, eventually shouting. Harper stopped, looked at Papelbon and yelled back, saying at one point, "Let's go."

Then Papelbon reached for the face of the franchise's neck, pushing Harper back against the wooden dugout bench. Harper reached for Papelbon's chest, grabbing fistfuls of jersey. The teammates wrestled against the bench, and Ian Desmond jumped in to pull Harper away to the other end of the dugout. Pitching coach Steve McCatty and hitting coach Rick Schu held Papelbon back.

"I'm in the wrong there," Papelbon admitted later.

Harper stormed off to the tunnel leading to the clubhouse and didn't take the field in the ninth as Tyler Moore entered the game. Papelbon, who got the last out of the eighth inning, stayed in with the score tied and gave up a two-home run to Andres Blanco. Papelbon drew loud boos from fans at Nationals Park and was finally pulled after 32 pitches. He was charged with five of the eight runs the Phillies scored in the ninth.

"This is a family issue, and we'll deal with it that way," said Manager Matt Williams, who was at the other end of the dugout during the fight. "There was an altercation in the dugout, and we'll leave it at that."

After the game, Papelbon apologized to Harper, but the two players took different tones.

"He apologized, so whatever," Harper said during his brief postgame comments. "I really don't care. It's like brothers fighting."

Papelbon also stuck to the family theme, referring to the fight as one among brothers that can be quickly forgotten. But asked if he had ever fought a teammate, Harper had a telling response: "[I'm] usually fighting the other team."

Williams said the Nationals hadn't yet discussed any discipline for Papelbon, who said he didn't expect any. "We'll handle that all in-house," Papelbon said. General Manager Mike Rizzo didn't respond to a request for comment after the game.

Papelbon said he wasn't upset that Harper said earlier in the week that Harper was going to be hit as potential retaliation for Papelbon hitting Orioles third baseman Manny Machado. (Papelbon is appealing Major League Baseball's three-game suspension for that incident.) So why was Papelbon jawing at Harper as he walked back to the dugout?

"We're not in the playoffs anymore. I realize that, and I think there was a lot of frustration that's spilling over," Papelbon said. "You know, for me it's just a situation where we gotta keep grinding even though we're not in this thing and play the game the right way."

Papelbon tried to take a positive tone about the postgame talk with Harper. He said things aren't always "hunky dory" during a long season and that disagreements happen when emotions spill over.

Plenty of misery has surrounded the Nationals this season, but the team's closer attacking the best player on the team and a top NL MVP candidate is a new low. The fight overshadowed a nice moment for Desmond in likely his second-to-last home game as a National. The soon-to-be free agent was replaced defensively before the ninth inning and left the game to a standing ovation.

"That stuff just happens," Desmond, who is close with Harper, said of the fight. "It's been an emotional couple days, and when emotions boil over sometimes, it gets the best of us and no blood drawn. I think we'll be all right."

Kenseth outlasts Harvick

Associated Press

LOUDON, N.H. — Matt Kenseth had the fresher tires and the fuller tank as he stalked Kevin Harvick with postseason advancement at stake.

Harvick never slowed down to conserve fuel, his team firm in the belief he could stretch his way to Victory Lane.

The gamble backfired. Harvick was out of gas, and now, almost out of chances to defend his Sprint Cup title.

Kenseth pressured Harvick down the stretch and took the lead for good when the defending series champion ran out of fuel Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in the second race of the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship.

"I ran as hard as I could to get as close as I could to him because I wanted to beat him," Kenseth said. "The faster he has to go, obviously, he burns more gas."

Harvick burned it all. Every last drop gone for the Stewart-Haas Racing driver before the finish line.

Kenseth, who won for the fifth time, earned a berth in the second round of NASCAR's playoffs and gave Joe Gibbs Racing its fourth straight victory.

Harvick had the dominant car and led the most laps until fuel woes hit and knocked him out with three laps left. He tumbled to 21st a week after he was finished 42nd in the Chase opener and will surely have to win next week at Dover International Speedway to advance to the second round.

Harvick declined comment.

"Fast car. Great day. Bad ending," he tweeted. "Things haven't gone exactly to plan but I promise you one thing 'we will not quit' #itaintover."

JGR is 2-for-2 in the Chase and continued to prove its Toyotas will be the ones to beat over the final eight races. Denny Hamlin, the winner last week at Chicagoland, was second for JGR. Chase drivers took eight of the top 10 spots.

The 16-driver Chase field will be cut to 12 after Dover.

Arrieta snaps Pirates' streak

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jake Arrieta pitched seven dominant innings and also homered in his major league-best 21st win, and the Chicago Cubs stopped Pittsburgh's eight-game winning streak with a 4-0 victory on Sunday night.

Arrieta (21-6) retired his first 18 batters before Gregory Polanco grounded a lead-off single into left field in the seventh. The right-hander hit a solo homer in the second and struck out nine while improving to 15-1 with a dazzling 0.89 ERA in his last 19 starts.

"No doubt in my mind he's the best right-handed pitcher in the game right now," catcher Miguel Montero said.

Pittsburgh (95-61) and Chicago (90-65) each have clinched playoff spots, and if they remain in the NL wild-card teams, the Pirates could see Arrieta again in the first game of the postseason on Oct. 7. But they would likely have ace Gerrit Cole for that one — Cole pitched seven crisp innings in a 3-2 victory over the Cubs in the series opener on Friday.

Of course, Pittsburgh still has a chance to catch St. Louis for the NL Central title. The Pirates trail the Cardinals by three games heading into a three-game set against the division leaders beginning Monday night in Pittsburgh.

A.J. Burnett (9-6) pitched six effective innings in the season finale against the Cubs, but Arrieta shut down the Pirates right from the start. Pedro Alvarez's leadoff fly ball to left in the sixth was Pittsburgh's first ball to leave the infield.

Kris Bryant had an RBI single in the first for Chicago, and Arrieta made it 2-0 with a one-out drive to right-center in the second. His second homer of the season led to a curtain call for the crowd of 40,617 at Wrigley Field.

The Pirates threatened after Polanco's single in the seventh. Arrieta hit Andrew McCutchen with one out, putting runners on first and second, but Aramis Ramirez bounced into an inning-ending double

play.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 4: At St. Louis, pinch-hitter Jason Rogers had a ninth-inning grand slam off Trevor Rosenthal (2-4), who had converted 47 of 49 previous save chances, and the Cardinals' NL Central lead was cut to 2½ games over Pittsburgh.

Khrist Davis homered twice and drove in four runs for the Brewers, who scored seven runs in the ninth.

Astros 4, Rangers 2: Dallas Keuchel (19-8) improved to 15-0 at home this season, striking out 10 while giving up one run and two hits in seven innings, and host Houston maintained a half-game lead over the Los Angeles Angels for the second American League wild card. The Astros also closed within 2½ games of AL West-leading Texas.

Angels 3, Mariners 2: Kole Calhoun singled in the tiebreaking run in the eighth after Carson Smith relieved Hisashi Iwakuma (9-5), and host Los Angeles won its fifth straight.

David Freese homered in the fifth for the Angels (81-74), who remained a half-game behind Houston. Los Angeles also moved just three games behind the Rangers, with four games in Texas to end the season.

Twins 7, Tigers 1: At Detroit, Byron Buxton doubled and homered for Minnesota, which won for the fifth time in seven games and remained 1½ games behind Houston in the wild-card race.

Rockies 12, Dodgers 5: Nolan Arenado had a career-high five RBIs, including a three-run homer, and host Colorado completed a three-game sweep that kept Los Angeles' magic number at two for its third straight NL West title.

The Dodgers (87-68) opened a four-game series at defending World Series champion San Francisco (81-74) on Monday.

Arenado hit his 41st homer in the fourth. He also had a sacrifice fly and a run-scoring single, giving him a major league-leading 126 RBIs.

Giants 5, Athletics 4: Chris Heston (12-10) gave up four runs and six hits in five-

plus innings to win for the first time in two months for visiting San Francisco. He had been 0-5 with a 4.90 ERA in nine starts since beating Milwaukee on July 27.

Royals 3, Indians 0: A day after his father died, Chris Young (11-6) pitched five no-hit innings in his first start after nearly two months in the bullpen for host Kansas City, then caught a flight to Dallas to be with his family before the game ended.

Red Sox 2, Orioles 0: Henry Owens (4-3) gave up three hits in 7⅓ innings, Blake Swihart hit a solo homer and host Boston completed a three-game sweep that included three shutouts.

Yankees 6, White Sox 1: Luis Severino (5-3) pitched five-hit ball for six innings, Dustin Ackley homered off Erik Johnson (3-1) to lift New York's late-waking offense and host New York cut its magic number for clinching at least a wild card to three.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 4: Josh Donaldson hit a solo homer off Steve Geltz (2-6) with two outs in the ninth, his 41st this year.

Justin Smoak had three hits, including a two-run homer. The Blue Jays, headed to the postseason for the first time since 1993, finished an AL-best 53-28 at home.

Mets 8, Reds 1: At Cincinnati, Jacob deGrom (14-8) gave up one run and five hits and struck out nine in six innings in his first outing since Sept. 15. New York skipped him in the rotation to get rest.

A day after clinching the NL East title for their first postseason berth since 2006, the Mets rested their regulars but still completed the first season sweep by either team since New York started play in 1962, going 7-0 against Cincinnati.

Marlins 9, Braves 5: Justin Bour homered twice and drove in three runs as host Miami completed a three-game sweep. Bour was 7-for-12 in the series with four homers and eight RBIs.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2: At San Diego, Ender Inciarte had two homers among his four hits and stole his 21st base for victorious Arizona.

Spieth wins FedEx Cup

Associated Press

ATLANTA — At age 22, Jordan Spieth became the first \$22 million man in golf Sunday.

Spieth capped off a dream season when he poured in putts from all over East Lake and closed with a 1-under 69 for a four-shot victory in the Tour Championship. That was all he needed to become the youngest player to capture the FedEx Cup and its \$10 million bonus.

His fifth victory of the year, including two majors, was worth \$1,485,000 and allowed the Texan to set a PGA Tour record with \$12,030,465. And if that wasn't enough, Spieth went back to No. 1 in the world.

His battle with Henrik Stenson long over, Spieth finished it off in fitting fashion. He made an 8-foot par putt that was never going anywhere but right in the heart.

Stenson had a 72 to tie for second with Danny Lee (65) and Justin Rose (66).