

STARS AND STRIPES®

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US B-52s fly over Mideast amid tension

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. military said Monday it flew a pair of nuclear-capable B-52 long-distance bombers over the Middle East in a show of force, the latest such mission in the region as tensions remain high between Washington and Tehran.

The bombers took off from the Royal Air Force base at Fairford, England, and flew over the eastern Mediterranean, the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea on Sunday in training missions together with Kuwaiti and Saudi warplanes, before departing the region.

“Threats to the U.S. and our partners will not go unanswered,” Lt. Gen. Alexis Grynkewich, the top U.S. Air Force officer in the Middle East said in a statement. “Missions like this ... showcase our ability to combine forces to deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries.”

Although Central Command did not mention Iran, Washington has frequently dispatched B-52 bombers to the region as hostilities simmered between the U.S. and Iran. The last such flyover was in June.

Iran’s regional foe, Israel, also joined in the multinational mission. Though unacknowledged by the U.S., three Israeli F-16 fighter jets accompanied the American bombers “through Israel’s skies on their way to the [Persian] Gulf,” the Israeli military said, describing the country’s cooperation with the U.S. military as key to “maintaining aerial security in Israel and the Middle East.”

CENTCOM was expanded last year to include Israel, a move seen to encourage regional cooperation against Iran under former President Donald Trump.

Trump’s decision four years ago to withdraw the U.S. from Tehran’s landmark nuclear deal with world powers sparked a series of escalating incidents in the region.

Even as diplomats now wrangle over a possible revival of the nuclear accord, Iran’s navy seized two American sea drones in the Red Sea last week.

That capture came just days after the country’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard towed another sea drone before releasing it as an American warship trailed it. The U.S. Navy has been deploying ultra-

endurance aerial surveillance drones to monitor threats in the crucial waterways, which have witnessed repeated maritime attacks.

Tensions also remain high after recent confrontations between U.S. forces and Iranian-backed militias in the region. Washington last month carried out airstrikes in eastern Syria that targeted areas used by militias backed by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, prompting a response from Iranian-backed fighters.

U.S. and Iranian negotiators in Vienna have been attempting to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, which imposed sharp limits on Iran’s atomic program in exchange for international sanctions relief. Last week, the State Department described Iran’s latest negotiating position as “not constructive.”

Meanwhile, Iran now enriches uranium up to 60% purity — a level it has never reached before that is a short, technical step away from 90%. While Iran has long maintained that its program is peaceful, nonproliferation experts warn Tehran has enough 60%-enriched uranium to reprocess into fuel for at least one nuclear bomb.

China accuses US of cyber-spying on university

Associated Press

BEIJING—China on Monday accused Washington of breaking into computers at a university that U.S. officials say does military research, adding to complaints by both governments of rampant online spying against each other.

Northwestern Polytechnical University reported computer break-ins in June, the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center announced. It said the center, working with a commercial security provider, Qihoo 360 Technology Co., traced the attacks to the National Security Agency but didn’t say how that was done.

China and the United States

are, along with Russia, regarded as global leaders in cyber-warfare research.

China accuses the United States of spying on universities, energy and internet companies and other targets. Washington accuses Beijing of stealing commercial secrets and has announced criminal charges against Chinese military officers.

The U.S. actions “seriously endanger China’s national security,” said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning. She also accused Washington of eavesdropping on Chinese mobile phones and stealing text messages.

“China strongly condemns it,”

Mao said. “The United States should immediately stop using its advantages to steal secrets and attack other countries.”

The American Embassy in Beijing didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

Security experts say the ruling Communist Party’s military wing, the People’s Liberation Army, and the Ministry of State Security also sponsor hackers outside the government.

Northwestern Polytechnical University, in the western city of Xi’an, is on a U.S. government “entity list” that limits its access to American technology.

Washington says the university helps the PLA develop aerial and underwater drones and mis-

sile technology.

Monday’s announcement accused the United States of taking information about the university’s network management and other “core technologies.” It said Chinese analysts found 41 “network attack” tools that it said were traced to the NSA.

Last year, a Chinese man, Shuren Qin, was sentenced to two years in prison by a federal court in Boston after he pleaded guilty to exporting underwater and marine technology to Northwestern Polytechnical University without required licenses.

The NSA is responsible for “signals intelligence,” or obtaining communications and other data.

Japan blasts Russia on drills with China

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan has protested to Russia over multinational military exercises including China that it is conducting on Russian-held islands claimed by Japan, and is seriously concerned about shooting drills by the two countries' warships off Japan's northern coast, an official said Monday.

Beijing has been increasing its military cooperation with Moscow, and has been taking part in the multinational "Vostok 2020" drills in Russia's far east since late August.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno criticized the exercises on the disputed islands, which Japan calls the Northern Territories, in the Kuril chain off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido. He said Japan's Defense Ministry spotted six Russian and Chinese warships firing machine guns into the Sea of Japan about 118 miles west of Cape Kamui on Hok-

kaido on Saturday.

"Japan will continue to monitor the movements of these ships with serious concern, and will take all possible measures to conduct warning and surveillance activities in the waters surrounding Japan," Matsuno said at a news conference.

China's Ministry of National Defense said in a statement Sunday that China participated in air, ground and naval exercises as part of the exercises. It said a Chinese naval tactical team conducted joint exercises with Russia in the Sea of Japan, including one designed to destroy drifting mines.

Japan has raised concern about growing tensions in Asia following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, fearing that the war is emboldening China's already assertive military activities in East Asia, especially around Taiwan, which China claims. Japan is currently revising its national security strategy and defense guidelines to significantly bolster

its military capabilities to reinforce its deterrence.

After the joint firing exercise, the warships, including a Chinese guided missile destroyer, a frigate and a supply ship and three Russian frigates, crossed the Soya Strait between the Japanese islands of Honshu and Hokkaido. The Chinese warships had crossed Tsushima Strait in southwestern Japan on Aug. 29, the ministry said.

Japan has repeatedly sought to regain sovereignty over the disputed islands, which Moscow seized in the closing days of World War II.

The dispute has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending their World War II hostilities. Russia earlier this year announced it has suspended peace talks with Japan to protest Tokyo's sanctions against Moscow over its war in Ukraine.

Kremlin claims sanctions holding up gas supplies

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Western sanctions on Russia over its war in Ukraine are to blame for stoppages in Moscow's supply of natural gas to Europe, a senior Kremlin official claimed Monday.

In some of the bluntest comments yet on the standoff between Moscow and Western Europe over energy supplies, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said problems with pumping the gas occurred "because of the sanctions."

"Other reasons that would cause problems with the pumping don't exist," Peskov claimed.

The sanctions on Moscow and Russian companies have created problems with equipment maintenance, he said, though that claim has been refuted by Western governments and engineers.

Russian energy company Gazprom announced Friday that a suspension of gas supplies heading westwards through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline would be extended indefinitely because oil leaks in turbines need fixing.

That move brought a surge in European natural gas prices and walloped global stock markets.

Peskov laid the blame for the disruption firmly at the door of the sanctions, which he claimed have prevented machinery from working properly, even though experts say that isn't true.

German officials have rejected those explanations, saying they are merely a political power play. Germany's Siemens Energy, which manufactured turbines the Nord Stream 1 pipeline uses, said turbine leaks can be fixed while gas continues to flow through the pipeline.

OPEC+ makes small trim to the world's oil supplies

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — OPEC and allied oil-producing countries, including Russia, made a small trim in their supplies to the global economy Monday, underlining their unhappiness as recession fears help drive down crude prices — along with the cost of gasoline, to drivers' delight.

The decision for October rolls back a mostly symbolic increase of 100,000 barrels per day in September. It follows a statement last month from Saudi Arabia's energy minister that the OPEC+ coalition could reduce output at any time.

Oil producers such as Saudi Arabia have resisted calls from President Joe Biden to pump more oil to lower gasoline prices and the burden on consumers. OPEC+ has stuck with only cautious increases to

make up for deep cuts made during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were finally restored in August.

Since then, growing worries about slumping future demand have helped send oil prices down from June peaks of over \$120 per barrel, cutting into the windfall for OPEC+ countries' coffers but proving a blessing for drivers in the U.S. as pump prices have eased.

The supply cut for October is only a small fraction of the 43.8 million barrels per day under OPEC+ production goals but wrong-footed several market analysts' predictions of no change in output. Oil prices jumped after the announcement.

U.S. crude rose 3.3% to \$89.79 per barrel, while international benchmark Brent was up 3.7%, to \$96.50, after the decision.

Emergency declared as flooding hits Georgia

Associated Press

SUMMERVILLE, Ga. — Flood watches were in effect in the U.S. southeast early Monday as forecasters warned of the possibility of torrential downpours on Labor Day across already saturated ground.

Among the hardest-hit areas in this weekend's storms was northwest Georgia, where 12 inches of rain fell in some spots, forecasters said.

The flooding knocked out water service to parts of Georgia's Chattooga County, authorities said.

"Our main thrust right now is getting our water situation back in hand," said Earle

Rainwater, who owns Rainwater Funeral Home in Summerville and serves as the Chattooga County coroner.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Sunday declared a state of emergency in Chattooga and Floyd counties.

That directed all state resources to help with "preparation, response and recovery activities."

In Chattooga County, several people had to be rescued from their homes on Sunday, especially in lower-lying areas of the county, Rainwater said.

Waves of showers and storms were expected to develop Monday in the region, as

moisture from the Gulf of Mexico continues to stream across the South, the National Weather Service said.

Some training storms — storms that drop several inches of rain as they move over the same areas like train cars — were also possible, the weather service said.

Parts of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia were under flash flood watches through Monday evening. The chance for flash flooding also extended to the northeast, into Pennsylvania and parts of southern New England, the weather service said.

Judge grants Trump bid for special master in search

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a legal victory for former President Donald Trump, a federal judge on Monday granted his request for a special master to review documents seized by the FBI from his Florida home and also temporarily halted the Justice Department's own use of the records for investigative purposes.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon authorizes an outside expert to review the records taken during the Aug. 8 search and to weed out from the rest of the investigation any that might be protected by claims of attorney-client privilege or executive privilege.

Some of those records may ultimately be returned to him, but the judge put off a rul-

ing on that question.

The order came despite the strenuous objections of the Justice Department, which said an outside legal expert was not necessary in part because officials had already completed their review of potentially privileged documents.

The appointment appears likely to slow the pace of the department's investigation into the presence of top-secret information at Mar-a-Lago, particularly given the judge's directive that the Justice Department may not for the moment use any of the seized materials as part of its investigation into the illegal storage of government secrets at the Florida property.

"The Court is mindful that restraints on criminal prosecutions are disfavored, but

finds that these unprecedented circumstances call for a brief pause to allow for neutral, third-party review to ensure a just process with adequate safeguards," Cannon, a Trump appointee, wrote in her 24-page order.

Even so, it is not clear that the decision will have a significant effect on any investigative or charging decisions or the ultimate outcome of the probe. A separate assessment by the U.S. intelligence community of the risk posed by the apparent mishandling of classified records will continue under the judge's order.

The Justice Department did not have an immediate comment, and a lawyer for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Police recall getting attacked with own riot shields on Jan. 6

The Washington Post

There was no one moment when the mob overtook the police at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, a half-dozen officers testified in D.C. federal court recently. Instead it was a gradual collapse, culminating in a violent standoff in a tunnel under the building.

In one of the latest trials for the investigation into last year's attack, officers who gave vivid testimony of their struggle to defend the Capitol repeatedly said Jan. 6 was unlike the many other protests they had seen in the city. D.C. police officers arriving to the scene with the riot already underway had to fight their way through the crowd.

They found a "small contingent" of Capitol Police on the West Terrace "trying to hold the crowd back," D.C. police Lt. Ge-

orge Donigian testified.

"There was this slow push, that was essentially constant forward movement, pushing us into the building," he said.

Nine men are accused of joining together to battle police at that entryway, using stolen batons and riot shields, firecrackers and their own bodies. Three were found guilty last month after acknowledging the facts but reserving their right to argue over the law on appeal. Three are set to go to trial in October. And another three began a bench trial Monday — David Mehaffie, Patrick McCaughey and Tristan Stevens, who claim they were merely caught between the mob behind them and the police in front of them.

Mehaffie, McCaughey and Stevens chose

to be judged not by a jury but by U.S. District Court Judge Trevor McFadden, a Trump appointee who has asserted that some Jan. 6 defendants are being treated too harshly compared to other protesters.

Like Donigian, D.C. Officer Chad Curtice was among several officers who recently testified against the three men, recalling police's terrifying battle against a swarm of rioters who prosecutors say shared a common goal of getting into the Capitol to stop the congressional affirmation of President Joe Biden's 2020 election victory.

Curtice said that, at first, the crowd was disorganized, but then "it was like they all joined together and charged . . . we ended up getting pushed all the way back" to the building.

At least 10 dead in stabbings in Canada

Associated Press

REGINA, Saskatchewan — A manhunt continued Monday for two men suspected of stabbing to death 10 people in an Indigenous community and a nearby town in one of the deadliest mass killings in Canada's history.

The men are also suspected of injuring 15 people in the series of knife attacks that led the James Smith Cree Nation to declare a state of emergency and shook residents of the nearby village of Weldon.

"No one in this town is ever going to sleep again. They're going to be terrified to open their door," said Weldon resident Ruby Works, who was close to one of the victims.

Police, meanwhile, said a vehicle reportedly carrying the two suspects had been spotted about 210 miles south of the communities where the stabbings occurred.

Police chief Evan Bray said they believe the suspects are in the provincial capital of Regina.

The suspects were identified as Damien Sanderson, 31, and Myles Sanderson, 30. Police wouldn't confirm if the two are relat-

ed and gave few details about them.

"It is horrific what has occurred in our province," said Rhonda Blackmore, assistant commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Saskatchewan, adding there were 13 places where either deceased or injured people were found. Blackmore said some of the victims appear to have been targeted by the suspects, but others appear to have been attacked at random.

She couldn't provide a motive, but the chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations gave a statement suggesting the stabbings could be drug-related.

The elected leaders of the three communities that make up the James Smith Cree Nation, including the Chakastaypasin Band and the Peter Chapman Band, declared a local state of emergency and opened two emergency operations centers.

Chakastaypasin Chief Calvin Sanderson — who apparently is not related to the suspects — said everyone has been affected by the tragic events.

"They were our relatives, friends," Sanderson said of the victims. "It's pretty hor-

rific."

"This is the destruction we face when harmful illegal drugs invade our communities, and we demand all authorities to take direction from the chiefs and councils and their membership to create safer and healthier communities for our people," said Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. Among the 10 victims killed was Lana Head, who is the former partner of Michael Brett Burns and the mother of their two daughters.

"It's sick how jail time, drugs and alcohol can destroy many lives," Burns told the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. "I'm hurt for all this loss."

Last May, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers issued a wanted list that included Myles Sanderson, writing that he was "unlawfully at large."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement he was "shocked and devastated by the horrific attacks."

"As Canadians, we mourn with everyone affected by this tragic violence, and with the people of Saskatchewan," Trudeau said.

Airline flights grounded in S. Korea as typhoon nears

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Hundreds of flights were grounded and more than 200 people evacuated in South Korea on Monday as Typhoon Hinnamnor approached the southern region with heavy rains and winds of up to 105 miles per hour, putting the nation on alert for its worst storm in decades.

South Korea's weather agency said the country will start to feel the full force of Hinnamnor, the strongest global storm this year, by early Tuesday when it is forecast to graze the southern resort island of Jeju before making landfall near the mainland city of Busan.

Government officials raised concern about potentially huge damage from flooding, landslides and tidal waves triggered by the typhoon, which comes just weeks after capital

Seoul and nearby regions were hit with heavy rainfall that unleashed flashfloods and killed at least 14 people.

President Yoon Suk Yeol, who said he would stay at his office overnight to monitor the typhoon, urged maximum effort to prevent casualties during an emergency response meeting on Monday.

Prime Minister Han Duk-soo called for proactive efforts to evacuate residents in areas vulnerable to flooding.

"This is forecast to be a historically strong typhoon that we never experienced before," Han said.

Officials say Hinnamnor could bring more powerful winds than 2003 Typhoon Maemi, which left 117 people dead and was the strongest storm to make landfall in the country since the start of record keeping in 1904.

Election win sets Truss up as Britain's prime minister

Associated Press

LONDON — Liz Truss has been elected as the Conservative Party's new leader, the party announced Monday, and she will become Britain's new prime minister as the country faces a cost-of-living crisis.

The 47-year-old Truss, who is currently foreign secretary, beat former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak after a leadership contest in which only about 170,000 dues-paying members of the Conservative Party were allowed to vote. Truss received 81,326 votes, compared with Sunak's 60,399. She faces immediate pressure to deliver on her promises to tackle a cost-of-living crisis walloping the U.K. and an economy heading into a potentially lengthy recession.

Queen Elizabeth II is scheduled to formally appoint Truss as Britain's prime minister on Tuesday. The ceremony will

take place at the queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland, where the monarch is spending her summer, rather than Buckingham Palace in London.

The two-month leadership contest left Britain with a power vacuum at a time of growing discontent across the country amid spiraling energy and food costs. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made no major policy decisions since he announced he was stepping down on July 7, and officials insisted that measures to address the energy cost crisis would be deferred until his successor is in place.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of workers have gone on strike to demand better pay to keep up with relentlessly rising costs. Inflation is above 10% for the first time since the 1980s, and the Bank of England has forecast that will reach a 42-year high of 13.3% in October.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

More moose migrating from different states

NV RENO — More and more moose from Idaho and Utah are making their way into Nevada, where they're finding wilderness to their liking without the kind of help from humans most species get when they relocate.

Irregular and sporadic moose sightings in Nevada date back to the 1950s, but about a decade ago, observations began to climb in the northeast corner of the state.

By 2018, the Nevada Department of Wildlife estimated there were somewhere between 30 and 50 moose in the state. Now, their numbers total well above 100, according to department biologist Kari Huebner.

State wildlife officials have said it's the first time a big game species has made a comeback in Nevada without a concentrated relocation effort.

2 deputies accused of weapons law misconduct

CA LOS ANGELES — Two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were allegedly involved in a long-term scheme involving applications for residents to carry concealed weapons, authorities said.

The deputies, whose names were not made public, were relieved of duty following the alleged weapons law misconduct, the sheriff's department said in a news release. Their peace officer powers have been suspended as well.

The investigation began about a year ago after officials discovered "irregularities" in

the concealed weapons application process, the department said.

Authorities served search warrants at multiple locations and seized evidence related to the alleged scheme.

Child finds gun, shoots and wounds infant

FL TAMPA — A Florida woman is facing child neglect charges after a 3-year-old found a gun in a home and shot an infant, police said Sunday.

The Tampa Police Department said in a news release that the 5-month-old baby was shot in the hip but the injury does not appear life-threatening. Investigators were working to learn exactly how the shooting occurred.

The woman in the house at the time, Paula Marie Concepcion Santos, 25, was charged with child neglect with great bodily harm, police said. Investigators did not immediately describe the woman's relationship to the two children.

3 officers arrested in separate cases

LA BATON ROUGE — Two officers in Louisiana's capital city face charges after one allegedly leaked details to drug dealers about an investigation for cash and the other allegedly sexually assaulted a woman, department officials said.

A third officer, who has since been fired, was charged in a shoplifting investigation in April.

Officer Richmond Barrow faces one count each of obstruction of justice and malfeasance

in office. He's accused of sharing information about a narcotics investigation with people involved in drug trafficking in exchange for cash. Officer Wade Hill, meanwhile, faces charges of kidnapping, obscenity, malfeasance in office and misdemeanor sexual battery in the assault of a woman at his apartment, Deputy Chief Myron Daniels said during a news conference.

The department also shared details of another officer's arrest in April after he was caught in a shoplifting investigation at a Denham Springs Walmart. Billy Mattingly is accused of entering the store and swapping stickers on products so he could buy them more cheaply than advertised, Daniels said.

Police hunt for suspect in death of journalist

NV LAS VEGAS — Authorities were searching for a suspect in the fatal stabbing of a Las Vegas journalist.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal said investigative reporter Jeff German was found dead with stab wounds outside his home.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police said the stabbing is currently believed to be an isolated incident and that there's no threat to the public.

According to police, it appears the 69-year-old German was in an altercation with another person that led to the stabbing.

"The Review-Journal family is devastated to lose Jeff," Glenn Cook, the newspaper's executive editor, said in a statement. "He was the gold standard of the

news business. It's hard to imagine what Las Vegas would be like today without his many years of shining a bright light on dark places."

Woman suffers likely shark bite while in bay

HI HONOLULU — Hawaii officials said a woman suffered what appeared to be a shark bite in a bay on Maui's north shore, and they are warning people to stay out of nearby waters.

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources said the woman was taken to a hospital for treatment of a "serious bite."

The incident occurred at Pa'ia Bay.

Over 60 displaced by fire likely from lightning

CO COLORADO SPRINGS — Dozens of residents in a Colorado Springs apartment complex have been displaced after a fire that was possibly caused by a lightning strike, fire officials said.

Fifty firefighters responded to a blaze at the Apex Apartments and had it under control in about 90 minutes, according to the Colorado Springs Fire Department.

Fire officials said 64 residents were displaced from 34 apartments because of fire damage. Officials also said residents of the building were not alerted by smoke or fire alarms and that firefighters alerted people by going door to door, KKTU reported.

An investigation into the cause is ongoing.

-From Associated Press



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Gauff reaches quarterfinals of US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coco Gauff raised a fist, then wagged her right index finger, responding to, and riling up even more, a loud-louder-loudest Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd that was standing and screaming. Gauff's U.S. Open opponent, Zhang Shuai, covered both ears with her hands to shield them from what she described later as a "Boom!" of sound.

Gauff and her fans were reacting excitedly to quite a point, one in which the 18-year-old Floridian raced to her right for a defensive forehand, then changed directions to sprint and slide into a backhand that drew a netted volley from Zhang. Just four points later, Gauff was a quarterfinalist at Flushing Meadows for the first time.

Gauff, the French Open runner-up in June, came back in each set to beat China's Zhang 7-5, 7-5 on Sunday to become the youngest American to make it this far at the U.S. Open since Melanie Oudin was 17 in 2009.

"Here, I can't hear myself scream. Makes me want to do it more. I think I'm feeding off the momentum a lot. I enjoy it," said No. 12 seed Gauff, who meets No. 17 Caroline Garcia of France on Tuesday. "New York is bringing out a side of me that I haven't had since I was 15, so it's nice."

Nick Kyrgios is also playing

much better than he ever has at Flushing Meadows, building off the momentum of his run to the Wimbledon final in July, and he eliminated defending champion and No. 1-ranked Daniil Medvedev 7-6 (11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday night.

The 23rd-seeded Kyrgios was up to some of his usual behavior — warned for cursing, yelling at his guest box, playing to the crowd — but he also outplayed Medvedev in a high-quality match.

"I'm just glad I'm finally able to show New York my talent," said Kyrgios, never past the third round at the U.S. Open until now. "I haven't had too many great trips here."

He'll play No. 27 seed Karen Khachanov on Tuesday, when the other's men's quarterfinal on the top half of the bracket is 2022 French Open runner-up Casper Ruud against 2021 Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini.

Medvedev will relinquish the top spot in the rankings after the U.S. Open, with Ruud joining Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz as players with a chance to replace him.

After trailing 5-4 in the opening set, then 5-3 in the second, which she was a point from losing, Gauff was buoyed by spectators who cheered her every point and chanted "Let's go, Coco!" as the end neared. She im-

proved to 4-0 in Ashe this year after having never previously won a match at the biggest arena in Grand Slam tennis.

How loud was it?

"It got so raucous in there that I got a headache. I had to take an Advil," said Gauff's father, Corey. "I kept pinching myself. I'm like, 'My gosh, all of these people here for my daughter.' You dream about this, but you never know if you're going to realize that. She was pumping herself up and they responded to her. It sent chills up my spine."

Zhang, at 33 the oldest woman to reach the fourth round, said it was more noise than she's ever heard at a match.

She praised Gauff's play, calling her "a superstar" and adding: "Everything is very good. She's so much younger than me. Her energy is so much better. She's faster. She's powerful."

They competed mostly from the baseline, and the longer the exchanges, the more success Gauff found: She claimed a 45-26 edge in points that lasted five or more strokes.

Garcia is coming off a hard-court title at Cincinnati and stretched her winning streak to 12 matches by defeating No. 29 Alison Riske-Amritraj of the U.S. 6-4, 6-1.

"I'm super excited, actually, to play Coco — in U.S., in New York, quarterfinal of a Slam. It's great," Garcia said.

The other quarterfinal on that half of the women's field will be between Ajla Tomljanovic, the player who beat Serena Williams in the third round, and No. 5 Ons Jabeur, who was the runner-up at Wimbledon. Tomljanovic got past Liudmila Samsonova 7-6 (8), 6-1 at Louis Armstrong Stadium in a matchup between unseeded players, while Jabeur defeated No. 18 Veronika Kudermetova 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Tomljanovic is a 29-year-old Australian who is now into her third Grand Slam quarterfinal after making it that far at Wimbledon the past two years. On Wednesday, Tomljanovic beat Williams in three sets in what is expected to be the last match of the 23-time Grand Slam champion's career.

Everyone's known how talented Gauff is for a while now. After all, at 15, she became the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history in 2019, beat Venus Williams in the first round of the main draw and made it all the way to the fourth. There have been more steps along the way, more achievements — last month, she became the second-youngest doubles No. 1 in WTA history — and her ever-developing game — the most notable recent improvements were to her forehand and second serve — keeps carrying her closer to the top of the singles rankings and closer to a Grand Slam title.

Ruiz beats Ortiz by decision in heavyweight showdown

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Andy Ruiz landed just enough big punches on Luis Ortiz to make up for his mistakes and caution in a narrow victory that kept him on the path to a chance to become the heavyweight champion again.

Ruiz knocked down Ortiz three times on the way to a victory by unanimous decision Sunday night.

In the main event, Ruiz (35-2, 22 KOs) grinded out a decision over Ortiz (33-3), a two-time world title challenger. The Southern California native knocked down the 43-

year-old Ortiz twice in the second round and again in the seventh, but his Cuban opponent battled through a badly swollen left eye and punched more accurately during long stretches of relative inactivity for both fighters.

"I worked so hard for this fight, because I knew he's a warrior and he hits hard," Ruiz said. "I thought I did a beautiful job boxing him around and handling his pressure."

The judges scored the bout 114-111, 114-111 and 113-112 for Ruiz. The Associated Press also had Ruiz 114-111, with the knockdowns

making the difference.

Ruiz pulled off one of the bigger upsets in recent heavyweight history when he took Anthony Joshua's three championship belts in 2019, only to lose them back to his British opponent six months later. Ruiz had fought just once since then, but he rededicated himself to training with hopes of getting another shot at the belts.

"I do not want to be waiting," Ruiz said. "I want to fight at least three or four times a year. I'm hungry, man. I want to be a champion again."

Jones wins NASCAR's Southern 500

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Erik Jones gave the No. 43 car a landmark 200th victory — along with maybe a few regrets to his old employers at Joe Gibbs Racing.

Jones moved in front when JGR star Kyle Busch blew an engine, then outraced another former Gibbs colleague in Denny Hamlin over the final 31 laps to win the Southern 500 on Sunday night. It's the first time a non-playoff driver won the opener of the 10-race postseason.

Jones won this event in 2019 for the Gibbs organization, where he raced Cup cars from 2017-20. He came out on top once more, this time for Petty GMS Motorsports owned in part by Richard Petty.

"I never lost any belief in myself through any of it," Jones said. "I knew I could still do it and I knew we needed to grow the program to do it. And we have."

The celebration continued for the Petty organization, which had not won since Aric Almirola's Daytona 500 victory in 2014.

"I know my dad," Kyle Petty said. "What time is it, 11 (p.m.)? He just opened a bottle of red wine."

The King went to Twitter shortly after Jones took the checkered flag, "Congratulations to @Erik_Jones and the entire #43 team!!!!"

Jones just wanted the Hall of Famer to keep his promise.

"He said I'd get a hat if I win," Jones said, laughing.

Hamlin, seeded sixth in the playoffs, closed in on Jones' back bumper on the final lap, but couldn't make the winning pass.

"Erik just did a really great job," Hamlin said. "Great day for Erik, a great day for our team."

The third of Jones' old JGR teammates, Martin Truex Jr. held a substantial lead over

Busch when his No. 19 had power steering problems and went off to the garage.

Jones remained in control and in one piece while many of the favored playoff participants couldn't do the same.

Along with the blow up of Busch, the 11th playoff seed, No. 9 seed Kevin Harvick saw his car catch fire in a scary scene. Harvick scrambled away from his stopped car to safety.

Top-seeded Chase Elliott was gone during the first stage, sliding into the wall, hitting Chase Briscoe as he tore up his suspension and was out of the race.

Kyle Larson, the defending series champion seeded fourth, was three laps down in the opening stage after engine problems. Larson finished 12th.

Hamlin was second followed by three more playoff chasers in Tyler Reddick, Joey Logano and Christopher Bell. Michael McDowell was sixth, then Brad Keselowski, William Byron and Bubba Wallace

Busch led 155 of 367 laps, the most of anyone. He ended in 30th.

"It's unfortunate circumstances," Busch said. "We just had a great car and didn't come out with anything to show for it. That's what I hate about it."

Logano moved into the points lead with William Byron second, Hamlin third and Christopher Bell, Jones' replacement at JGR, in fourth. The four drivers below the 12-team cutoff line for the second round were Austin Cindric in 13th, followed by Austin Dillon, Chase Briscoe and Harvick in 16th.

Chase Elliott was out of the Southern 500 before it got to halfway. Elliott slid in turn one, then collected playoff participant Chase Briscoe. Elliott's suspension was damaged. His crew could not fix it in the pits and took it to the garage.

Elliott finished 36th, last in the field. His plans going forward: "Run better than we did today."

No orders: Penske sends 3 drivers to IndyCar title race

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Scott Dixon watched Scott McLaughlin lead lap after lap around Portland International Raceway and figured at some point, his fellow New Zealander would be ordered to pull over.

There's a championship on the line — the closest IndyCar title fight in 19 years — and McLaughlin is at best a longshot. His teammate Will Power is the points leader, and so Dixon figured the radio orders would eventually come to call for McLaughlin to hand the lead to Power.

"I think I called it with 10 laps to go, I'm surprised they haven't swapped yet," Dixon said.

Team Penske issued no such team orders and will now wait until Sunday to see if it costs the organization the IndyCar title.

McLaughlin won his third race of the season and goes into this weekend's season finale trailing points leader Power by 41 points. He's still mathematically in the fight, but in need of a lot of help on the California road course.

Power, meanwhile, finished second to

McLaughlin at Portland on Sunday to widen his lead in the standings. He arrived in Portland with just a three-point cushion over teammate Josef Newgarden, and Power is now up by 20 points over both Newgarden and Dixon.

Like Dixon, Power wondered why Team Penske didn't move McLaughlin aside.

"Absolutely. I was on the radio asking for it," said Power, noting that a victory would have been worth 11 additional points and sent him to Laguna Seca up 31 over the competition.

"Obviously, 10 points, 11 points would make a big difference," Power said. "You wouldn't be having to finish third [to win the title]. You would have been having to finish eighth or something."

Power then turned to Dixon and asked his longtime rival if his car owner, Chip Ganassi, would have called team orders in that position. Dixon nodded affirmatively.

But Power has seen it before from years of championship battles against the Ganassi group, including a four-year fight with Dixon

and Dario Franchitti from 2010 through 2013. As Dixon and Franchitti always worked as a group, they often wondered why Power at Penske was forced to equally contend with his own teammates.

Power finished second in the championship race to a Ganassi driver three consecutive years, was fourth in 2013, and then finally won his only title in 2014 when he beat teammate Helio Castroneves.

Roger Penske allows each of his drivers to represent their teams and sponsors individually, and his drivers can race each other, but he draws that line at crashing into one another. Because he wants everyone to have a fair chance, any pre-race discussions about potential team orders for pole-sitter McLaughlin were brief.

"At the end of the day it was completely circumstantial. It's pretty obvious what position you're in if you do need to give up," McLaughlin said. "I told Will before the race that I would fight him cleanly, and I think that's all he expected."

Cards top Cubs; Pujols reaches 695 HRs

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Albert Pujols collected home run No. 695 in the eighth inning and Miles Mikolas tossed eight shutout innings to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to a 2-0 win over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday.

Pujols drilled the two-run, pinch-hit shot off reliever Brandon Hughes (2-2).

A probable future Hall of Famer, Pujols trails only Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Alex Rodriguez (696) on the all-time home run list.

Pujols has seven pinch-hit homers in his career, including two this season. He has homered against 451 different pitchers, an all-time record.

“It’s just pretty special to be able to do that,” Pujols said. “There’s some nights that you’re going to come through and some nights that you don’t. The nights that you do, you just enjoy it. And that’s what I’m going to enjoy tonight.”

Tommy Edman started the rally with a one-out double.

“I was 100% confident that he was going to find a way to drive me in,” Edman said. “As crazy as it is, we just expect that to happen now. He’s the best right-handed hitter of our generation.”

Pujols, in his last season, has found a way to come through in dramatic fashion all season long.

“There’s times in this game where you take a step back from being locked into the game and you get to be a fan for a minute, and experience it the way everyone else is,” St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. “That was one of them. You take it all in because what he’s doing is absolutely incredible.”

St. Louis has won four in a row, 18 of its last 20 home games and is a season-best 24 games over .500 at 79-55. It was the Cardinals’ eighth series sweep of the season.

Yankees 2, Rays 1: Aaron

Judge led off the game with his major league-leading 53rd homer and visiting New York stopped Tampa Bay to avoid a three-game sweep.

Judge set a career high for homers, topping the 52 he hit as a rookie in 2017. He also doubled, singled and scored both New York runs.

Frankie Montas (5-11) allowed one hit over five shutout innings as the AL East-leading Yankees increased their lead to five games over Tampa Bay. The Rays trailed by 15½ games on July 10.

Braves 7, Marlins 1: Max Fried allowed no hits in five scoreless innings against Miami, Marcell Ozuna homered and host Atlanta won its fifth straight game.

The defending World Series champion Braves have taken five in a row and 20 of 25 to move a season-high 33 games over .500 at 84-51. They are within one game of first place in the NL East.

Fried (13-5) didn’t allow a baserunner, retiring 12 in a row, until Nick Fortes walked to begin the fifth. Fortes was erased as a double play ended the inning before a rain delay of 1 hour, 51 minutes. Fried didn’t return after the delay.

Dodgers 9, Padres 4: Will Smith homered for the second consecutive game and Trayce Thompson added a pinch-hit home run as host Los Angeles used two big innings to beat San Diego.

The Dodgers, who have the best record in the MLB at 92-41, extended their lead over the Padres in the NL West to 19 games with 29 games remaining.

Thompson hit the second pinch-hit homer of his career, a three-run shot in the seventh inning. Smith hit his 21st homer of the season, a solo shot off starter Mike Clevinger (5-6), who lasted 3½ innings and allowed five earned runs on four hits and two walks with four strikeouts.

Astros 9, Angels 1: Jose Altuve had three hits and drove in three runs, and José Urquidy pitched four-hit ball over seven innings as visiting Houston beat Los Angeles.

Altuve chased Angels’ starter Tucker Davidson (2-5) with a two-run homer to left field for his 23rd of the season. The All-Star second baseman — who went 6-for-13 in the series — also had an RBI double during a five-run second inning.

Blue Jays 4, Pirates 3: Teoscar Hernandez delivered the go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning and visiting Toronto edged Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep.

Hernandez lined a shot up the middle against Duane Underwood Jr. (1-5) with two outs to push Toronto in front, and the bullpen did the rest. The Blue Jays improved to a season-best 14 games over .500 (73-59) to maintain their hold on the third and final wild card spot in the American League.

Mariners 6, Guardians 3 (11): J.P. Crawford singled in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, Cal Raleigh added a two-run homer and visiting Seattle beat slumping Cleveland for its seventh straight win in a game that was delayed by rain for 4 hours, 33 minutes.

With one out, Crawford bounced a single past Trevor Stephan (4-4) and into center field to score Eugenio Suárez, who began the 11th as the automatic runner. Raleigh, who homered twice on Friday, followed by belting a 2-2 pitch to right for his 22nd homer.

Twins 5, White Sox 1: Carlos Correa homered for visiting Minnesota and Dylan Bundy shut down Chicago once again.

The Twins finished with 12 hits. Correa connected in the fifth, hitting a two-run drive to left-center off Lucas Giolito (10-9) for his 16th homer. Bundy (8-6) pitched five scoreless innings to improve to 7-0 with a 3.15 ERA in 10 career appear-

ances against the White Sox.

Athletics 5, Orioles 0: Seth Brown hit a pair of solo homers, rookie Adrián Martínez threw six innings of three-hit ball and visiting Oakland stalled Baltimore’s playoff surge.

Diamondbacks 5, Brewers 1: Zac Gallen tied the major-league record with his sixth consecutive scoreless start to lead host Arizona over Milwaukee.

Gallen (11-2) extended his scoreless streak to 41 ½ innings, allowing two singles and a walk in seven innings. It was his sixth straight start without allowing a run, tying Don Drysdale (1968), Orel Hershiser (1988) and Zack Greinke (2015).

Nationals 7, Mets 1: César Hernández hit his first homer in more than a year in visiting Washington’s victory over New York.

Red Sox 5, Rangers 2: Trevor Story hit a three-run homer over the Green Monster, Xander Bogaerts had his eighth straight multi-hit game and host Boston completed a four-game sweep of Texas.

Royals 3, Tigers 2: Bobby Witt Jr.’s eighth-inning double drove in the go-ahead run and visiting Kansas City edged Detroit.

Reds 10-4, Rockies 0-8: Aristides Aquino hit his first career grand slam an inning after entering as an injury replacement in the nightcap and host Cincinnati split a doubleheader with Colorado.

In the opener, Charlie Blackmon’s pinch-hit two-run single highlighted a four-run seventh for Colorado, and C.J. Cron hit a two-run homer in the ninth for the Rockies.

Giants 5, Phillies 3: Carlos Rodón reached the 200-strikeout mark for the first time in his career and Wilmer Flores hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning as San Francisco completed a three-game sweep and sent Philadelphia to its sixth loss in seven games.