

Harris makes first VP visit to Yokota

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Vice President Kamala Harris landed at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in Tokyo on Monday, kicking off a four-day visit to the country in which she'll pay her respects to its slain former prime minister and discuss an uptick in regional tensions with the current leader.

Harris is leading a delegation of current and former U.S. officials that includes U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel and four others who once held his post: Sen. Bill Hagerty, U.S. Ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy, John Roos and Thomas Schieffer.

They'll represent the United States on Tuesday at a controversial state funeral for slain former leader Shinzo Abe at the Budokan in Tokyo. He was gunned down July 8 while speaking at a political event in Nara.

Harris met with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Monday evening at Akasaka Palace. The pair were expected to discuss "a range of regional and global issues including the importance of preserving peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," according to comments by a senior Biden administration

official that were posted to the White House website on Friday.

The vice president told Kishida that "the alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," according to The Associated Press.

Kishida said Abe "poured his heart and soul" into strengthening the countries' ties, and that he felt it was his duty to continue those aspirations, the agency reported.

While in Tokyo, Harris will hold discussions with the South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, according to the White House.

The vice president is also slated to visit Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the U.S. 7th Fleet south of Tokyo, to greet service members and tour a destroyer, the White House official said.

"She will meet with commanders and sailors of our forward-deployed naval forces, and she will then deliver remarks," the official said.

There are more than 50,000 U.S. troops serving in Japan.

Regional tension spiked Aug. 3 when U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan while leading a congressional delegation to Asia that included stops in Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan.

The Taipei visit prompted China, which sees the democratic island as a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, possibly by force, to stage live-fire drills that encircled Taiwan.

President Joe Biden said in a CBS "60 Minutes" interview aired Sept. 18 that U.S. troops would defend the island if China invaded, although the White House later walked back those comments. It did the same after the president made a similar statement while visiting Japan in May.

Harris is scheduled to travel to South Korea on Thursday and meet with newly elected President Yoon Suk Yeol, according to the Biden administration official.

During that visit, Harris will underscore the strength of the U.S.-South Korea alliance and discuss the threat posed by North Korea; the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait; and the U.S. and South Korea's growing economic and technology partnership, the official said.

Russian commander shot, told 'no one will go to fight'

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A young man shot a Russian military officer at close range at an enlistment office Monday, in an unusually bold attack reflecting resistance to the Russian leadership's efforts to mobilize hundreds of thousands of men to wage war on Ukraine.

The shooting comes after scattered arson attacks on enlistment offices and protests in Russian cities against the call-up that have resulted in at least 2,000 arrests. Russia is seeking to bolster its military as its Ukraine offensive has bogged down and sapped its forces.

In the attack in the Siberian

city of Ust-Ilimsk, 25-year-old local resident Ruslan Zinin walked into the enlistment office saying "no one will go to fight" and "we will all go home now," according to local media reports.

Zinin was arrested and officials vowed tough punishment. Local authorities said the military commandant was in intensive care, without elaborating. A witness quoted by a local news site said Zinin was in a room of people called up to fight. Troops from his region were scheduled to head to military bases Tuesday.

Concerns are growing that Russia may seek to escalate the

conflict — including potentially using nuclear weapons — once it completes what Ukraine and the West see as illegal referendums in parts of Ukraine under its control.

The voting, in which residents are asked whether they want their regions to become part of Russia, began last week and ends Tuesday, in conditions that are anything but free or fair.

Thousands of residents had already fled the regions amid months of incessant fighting, and images shared by those who remained have showed armed Russian troops going door-to-door to pressure Ukrainians in-

to casting a ballot.

"Every night and day there is inevitable shelling in the Donbas, under the roar of which people are forced to vote for Russian 'peace,'" Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kirilenko said Monday.

Russia is widely expected to declare the results in its favor, a step that could see Moscow annex the territory and give it the pretext to defend it as its own territory under the Russian nuclear umbrella.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that no date has been set for recognizing the regions as part of Russia, but it could be a matter of days.

'Fat Leonard' had relaxed life before escape

The Washington Post

The rules laid out in federal court were clear: Leonard Glenn Francis, the Malaysian defense contractor who admitted bribing dozens of Navy officers as part of a \$35 million fraud scheme, would remain in home confinement under tight, 24/7 security while he provided evidence against corrupt Navy personnel. Only approved visitors could enter the home. An ankle monitor would alert authorities should he somehow slip away.

"He's not going anywhere," one of his defense attorneys, Devin Burstein, assured the judge in late 2020.

But the criminal mastermind known as "Fat Leonard" because of his 6-2, 350-pound frame eventually did go somewhere, cutting off his ankle monitor this past Labor Day weekend and fleeing the San Diego mansion where he had been living with private security staff that he paid for under a court-approved deal meant to prevent his escape.

He was captured after 16 days on the run, caught Tuesday at an airport in Venezuela from which he was headed to Russia after earlier stops in Mexico and Cuba, according to Interpol. Interpol's Venezuela director general, Carlos Garate Rondon, said the 57-year-old Francis would be handed over to judicial authorities to begin the paperwork for extradition.

The international manhunt for Francis renewed interest in his long-running case and the way he outmaneuvered federal authorities in escaping weeks before his sentencing. His flight also triggered new calls from attorneys representing Navy officers in related cases for more details about the health issues that caused Francis to be released from prison on a medical

furlough that the court repeatedly extended without objection from prosecutors.

Francis pleaded guilty in 2015 and became a cooperating witness. He spent a couple of years in prison before a diagnosis of kidney cancer led to his initial furlough in 2018 for medical treatment, and then multiple extensions, court files show. With Francis's help, prosecutors secured convictions from 33 of 34 defendants.

Francis increasingly took advantage of his confinement rules, according to new records on his household arrangements obtained by *The Washington Post* and interviews with people who knew or worked for him during his years in home detention. He hired servants to meet his family's every need and undermined the court's security requirements aimed at keeping him from fleeing by stationing his personal security guards in windowless garages, with no night patrols and no visitor's logs. He seemed able to anticipate when federal officers were headed to check on him, the interviews showed, and allowed a video crew to film him days before he fled.

During his years on medical furlough, Francis stayed at three private homes, where his comforts and liberties grew. Most recently he, his family and an English bulldog lived in a five-bedroom, seven-bath home with a \$7,000-a-month rent in a gated community, court filings and interviews show.

At his first stay outside a cell, in an apartment near his doctor's office, Francis's staff prepared so much food for him that uneaten meals filled two to three trash bags each day that would have to be placed in a commercial dumpster nearby, according to Ricardo Buhain, a live-in, around-the-clock secur-

ity guard who said he had been hired via an introduction from a doctor treating Francis and that Leonard paid him \$10,000 a month.

"He is kind of one of those Crazy Rich Asian kind of people," said Buhain, who said he was Francis's first security guard during his home confinement, referring to the novel and romantic comedy about a fabulously wealthy Singapore family. "The servants really served him. They bathed all of his kids. They fed them 24/7."

A guard hired as Buhain's successor at the apartment, Anthony Galvan, earned about \$7,500 a month and said he worked a 12-hour daylight shift and never saw signs of overnight security.

Galvan said there was never anyone on duty when he arrived or left, and that he spent much of his time opening Amazon boxes.

"It's crazy how much stuff he ordered," he said. "He had packages coming from Amazon all day long. He had so much deliveries happening every single day. Sometimes it would be couches, all kinds of furniture, books. Every morning I would show back up at the garage and there would just be boxes in there."

In the days before he went on the lam, Francis paid for U-Haul trucks to carry his family's belongings out of his home and brought in a film crew to interview him, according to Perla Nation, who said she met Francis through an attorney and worked during his final month of home confinement handling administrative tasks.

Nation said she asked Francis about the film crew but didn't get an explanation. "He said it was 'just something that I'm doing,'" she said.

Despite working in the home

two or three days a week, Nation said she never met the security guard who she said stayed in the property's garage. She said she never saw a log of visitors to the house.

Nation said the U-Hauls were there to clear the house of belongings from Francis's children as they moved out in anticipation of his sentencing.

"He is a very smart man, and you are seeing the fallout now," she said while Francis was still at large. "Because even within those confines he always had options."

Francis' escape has drawn additional scrutiny to the federal judge, the U.S. attorney's office, Pretrial Services and the U.S. Marshals Service for their roles in his unusual confinement. Whether Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro will allow his extradition is also unknown. The United States doesn't recognize Maduro's government as legitimate, and the countries cut diplomatic relations in 2019.

The judge, the U.S. attorney's office and Pretrial Services did not respond to interview requests. The U.S. Marshal's Service responded to an interview request with a statement that said, "The U.S. Department of Justice generally does not comment on extradition-related matters until a defendant is in the United States."

Nation, 33, who started in August helping Francis with administrative tasks, said he may have lulled authorities into complacency because, in her experience, he very seldom left except to take short walks, go to church, or attend legal and medical appointments.

"I think that's why the system became so lax around him," she said, "because he really was a model of house arrest in that way."

Army deploys HIMARS to Latvia for readiness drill

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. Army dispatched long-range artillerymen to Latvia on Monday for national combat readiness drills alongside local and allied forces, service officials said.

U.S. Army Europe and Africa said it deployed two M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems with a dozen personnel to the Baltic nation, where security concerns have grown following Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine in February.

Col. Richard Ikena, 1st Infantry Division artillery commander, said the mission highlights the Army's ability to get into position "at a moment's notice anywhere in the European theater."

The HIMARS system entered Army service in 2005. Its heavy warheads and roughly 50-mile rocket range are being credited by military analysts for helping level out Russia's numerical advantage, as Ukraine seeks to regain territory in its east and south.

The units participating include the Fort

Bragg, N.C.-based 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, which deployed to Germany in February as part of the U.S. effort to bolster forces in Europe.

The soldiers are operating under the command of 1st Infantry Division Artillery. The 352nd Special Operations Wing transported the HIMARS teams in C-130 planes to two locations in Latvia.

The moves resemble other recent U.S. Army and special operations efforts in Europe over the past two years that have emphasized maneuvering artillery units on short notice to strategic locations.

For example, in November 2020, U.S. special operators and Army artillerymen for the first time in Europe loaded ground rockets onto a low-flying aircraft for a quick-strike drill that hit targets in the Black Sea.

Even before Russia's attacks on Ukraine in February, adding long-range artillery has been a priority for the Army in Europe, where it has reconstituted Cold War-era forces to counter Russian provocations along the NATO alliance's eastern flank.

Day after North's missile launch, US, S. Korea begin joint exercise

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft carrier and its strike group kicked off four days of drills with South Korean warships on Monday, one day after North Korea test-fired another ballistic missile.

The joint training is centered on anti-surface warfare and strategic maneuvers, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said in a news release Monday. The goal of the exercise, which includes more than 20 ships from both countries, is to prepare "for North Korean provocations with an aim to improve capabilities" of the United States and South Korea, the ministry said.

"The [South Korean] and U.S. navies are going to display their power and determination through this exercise," Rear Adm. Michael "Buzz" Donnelly, commander of Carrier Strike Group 5 and Task Force 70, said in the release. "The [South Korean]-U.S. al-

liance is the strongest alliance in the world, and we are getting stronger through regular exercises and the close friendly relations."

The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group, which includes the destroyers USS Barry and Benfold and the guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, arrived on South Korea's southern coast for a port call on Friday. The visit was the USS Ronald Reagan's first in Busan since 2017.

"The [South Korea] and U.S. alliance has mutually strived to promote peace and stability on the peninsula for the last 70 years," South Korean navy Adm. Kim Kyung Cheol said during a press conference aboard the Ronald Reagan on Friday. "The [South Korean] and U.S. navies will conduct a variety of activities to bolster the navies' friendship."

Donnelly stressed that the port call and military drills were scheduled in advance and that he would leave "leave the messaging to the diplomats."

Canal built in 1500s is supply line for troops

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Bullets and ordnance headed to U.S. service members in Europe and Africa now cross a 16th-century Italian waterway that has been transformed by a recently completed \$42 million project.

A swing rail bridge over the Navicelli canal near the port of Livorno allows the U.S. military to better connect the Army's Pisa Ammunition Storage Area at Camp Darby to European rail lines, said Col. Matthew Gomlak, commanding officer of U.S. Army Garrison Italy.

"This project absolutely improves the capability of the Department of Defense and of the European command to put things in theater faster and more effectively," Gomlak said.

"So soldiers that need things, ammunition in particular, get it faster."

The Navy oversaw engineering and construction on the project, which was built for an Army facility and funded by the Air Force, Gomlak said.

The nearly 220-foot bridge and separate canal dock renovations improve access for small, shallow draft vessels, said Navy Capt. Joe Harder, commanding officer of the region's Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command.

Nearly three years were spent working through environmental requirements to not only minimize impact but also improve an Italian nature preserve in the ammunition storage area, Harder said.

That included planting 9,500 trees, creating four wetland areas and stopping construction for three months in the spring to avoid disturbing birds and other animals, he said.

The project, which included construction of two railheads that allow for secure, safe unloading of rail cars, used about 2,425 tons of steel, Harder said. Ukraine is one of the largest producers of steel products in Europe, but its supply capabilities were eviscerated by the full-scale invasion by Russia in late February, he said.

"As their capability was taken out of the market, the demand stayed the same," Harder said. "So the cost went through the roof."

Built between 1563 and 1575, the hand-dug canal was funded by the Medici family of Florence to connect the port with Pisa, according to Gomlak.

Hurricane Ian nears Cuba on path to Fla.

Associated Press

HAVANA — Hurricane Ian moved near the Cayman Islands and closer to western Cuba early Monday on a track to hit Florida as a major hurricane this week.

Ian was forecast to intensify rapidly and hit Cuba as a major hurricane late Monday, and then become an even stronger Category 4 hurricane over warm Gulf of Mexico waters before striking the west central coast of Florida on Wednesday.

Authorities in Cuba suspended classes in Pinar del Rio province and planned evacuations Monday as Ian gained strength on approach to Grand Cayman and the Cuban provinces of Isla de Juventud, Pinar del Rio and Artemisa.

“Cuba is expecting extreme hurricane force winds, also life threatening storm surge and heavy rainfall,” U.S. National Hurricane Center senior specialist Daniel Brown told The Associated Press early Monday.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Ian should reach far-western Cuba late Monday or early Tuesday, hitting near the country’s most famed tobacco fields.

At 8 a.m. EDT on Monday, Ian was moving northwest at 14 mph, about 90 miles west-southwest of Grand Cayman, sustaining top winds of 75 mph.

In the Cayman Islands, members of the government and opposition were working together “to ensure that our people are made as safe as possible — the supplies, plywood, in some cases sandbags, are distributed so that they can safely weather this storm,” Premier Wayne Panton said in a video posted Sunday. “We must prepare for the worst and absolutely pray and hope for the best.”

“Ian is not expected to spend much time over western Cuba, and additional strengthening is likely over the southeastern Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday,” the center said. “Ian is likely to have an expanding wind field and will be slowing down by that time, which will have the potential to produce significant wind and storm surge impacts along the west coast of Florida.”

A surge of up to 8 feet of ocean water and 10 inches of rain, with as much as 15 inches in isolated areas, was predicted for the Tampa Bay area. That’s enough water to inundate low-lying coastal communities.

Florida residents were getting ready, lining up for hours in Tampa to collect bags of sand and clearing store shelves of bottled water. A hurricane watch was issued for Florida’s central western coast including the Tampa Bay area, where Hillsborough County suspended classes through Thurs-

day to prepare schools to serve as shelters for evacuees. Additional watches for more northern areas along the peninsula’s west coast may be issued, Brown said.

Gov. Ron DeSantis has declared a state of emergency throughout Florida and urged residents to prepare for the storm to lash large swaths of the state with heavy rains, high winds and rising seas.

“We’re going to keep monitoring the track of this storm. But it really is important to stress the degree of uncertainty that still exists,” DeSantis said at a news conference Sunday, cautioning that “even if you’re not necessarily right in the eye of the path of the storm, there’s going to be pretty broad impacts throughout the state.”

Flash and urban flooding is possible in the Florida Keys and Florida peninsula through midweek, and then heavy rainfall was possible for north Florida, the Florida panhandle and the southeast United States later this week.

The agency has advised Floridians to have hurricane plans in place and monitor updates of the storm’s evolving path.

President Joe Biden also declared an emergency, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief.

At least 15 dead, many hurt in school shooting in Russia

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A gunman opened fire in a school in central Russia on Monday, killing 15 people and wounding 24 others before shooting himself dead, authorities said.

The shooting took place in School No. 88 in Izhevsk, a city 600 miles east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region. The school educates children between grades one and 11.

Russia’s Investigative Committee identified the gunman as Artyom Kazantsev, 34, a graduate of the same school, and said he was wearing a black T-shirt bearing “Nazi symbols.” No details about his motives have been released.

The Committee said 15 peo-

ple, including 11 children, were killed in the shooting, and 24 other people, including 22 children, were wounded in the attack.

The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said the gunman, who he said was registered as a patient at a psychiatric facility, killed himself after the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the shooting as “a terrorist act” and said Russian President Vladimir Putin has given all the necessary orders to the relevant authorities.

“President Putin deeply mourns deaths of people and children in the school, where a terrorist act took place,” Peskov told reporters Monday.

Italy shifts right as voters give nod to Meloni’s party

Associated Press

ROME — A party with neo-fascist roots, the Brothers of Italy, won the most votes in Italy’s national elections, looking set to deliver the country’s first far-right-led government since World War II and make its leader, Giorgia Meloni, Italy’s first woman premier, near-final results showed Monday.

Italy’s lurch to the far right immediately shifted Europe’s geopolitics, placing a euroskeptic party in position to lead a founding member of the European Union and its third-largest economy. Right-wing leaders across Europe immediately hailed Meloni’s victory and her party’s meteoric rise as sending a historic message to Brussels,

while Italy’s left warned of “dark days” ahead and vowed to keep Italy in the heart of Europe.

Near-final results showed the center-right coalition netting 44% of the parliamentary vote, with Meloni’s Brothers of Italy getting 26%.

While the center-right was the clear winner, the formation of a government is still weeks away and will involve consultations among party leaders and with President Sergio Mattarella. In the meantime, outgoing Premier Mario Draghi remains in a caretaker role. A Meloni-led government is expected to follow Italy’s current foreign policy, including her pro-NATO stance and support for supplying Ukraine with weapons.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Desert surf lagoon plan canceled amid drought

CA LA QUINTA — A Southern California desert city rejected a proposal for a surf lagoon surrounded by hundreds of homes and hotel rooms after critics argued it's the wrong project in the midst of a punishing Western drought.

The city council in La Quinta, near Palm Springs, voted unanimously against a zoning change that would have permitted construction of the Coral Mountain project, including 600 homes and a hotel with up to 150 rooms.

The 12-acre wave basin would have required 18 million gallons of water to fill. Developers have said the project would use far less water than local golf courses.

During a meeting lasting over six hours, opponents cited concerns about the water use as well as light and noise, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Classic movie has town changing lewdness law

CO DENVER — A Denver suburb's plan to show a nearly 50-year-old movie at its arts center has officials scrambling to revamp the town's indecency laws.

The Denver Post reported the city of Parker plans to show the 1975 cult classic, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," at the Parker Arts, Culture & Events Center in October. But because the event center holds a liquor license, and the movie includes a momentary glimpse of a woman's breast, the showing is prohibited under a town ordinance prohibiting "lewd and indecent" displays.

Parker's town council is considering two ordinances on the issue that officials have said will bring the indecency code into compliance with a recent federal court ruling by no longer singling out female breasts, but not male breasts, as indecent. The council is expected to cast a final vote on the measures next month — potentially paving the way for the movie showing to continue as planned.

Judge bars enforcement of 'ghost gun' restraints

DE DOVER — A federal judge issued an injunction barring Delaware from enforcing provisions of a new law outlawing the manufacture and possession of homemade "ghost guns," which can't be traced by law enforcement officials because they don't have serial numbers.

The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by gun rights advocates after Democratic Gov. John Carney signed a law last October criminalizing the possession, manufacture and distribution of such weapons as well as unfinished firearm components.

Judge Maryellen Noreika denied a motion by Democratic state Attorney General Kathleen Jennings, the sole defendant, to dismiss the lawsuit. She instead granted a preliminary injunction in favor of the plaintiffs to prohibit enforcement of certain provisions pending resolution of the lawsuit.

While declining to issue a permanent injunction, Noreika said that the plaintiffs are likely to succeed in their arguments that a ban on possessing homemade guns violates the Second Amendment, and that the pro-

hibition on manufacturing untraceable firearms is also likely unconstitutional.

Coast Guard works to remove ships from river

OR PORTLAND — Two ships that have been abandoned in the Columbia river for years are being removed and the U.S. Coast Guard is working with state agencies to clean up the fuel and oil that leaked from the vessels.

The ships — a Navy tug called the Sakarissa and a Coast Guard cutter called the Alert — first arrived in Portland in 2006, and were brought near Hayden Island in hopes they could be turned into a museum. But the funding for that project dried up, and they have been abandoned for more than a decade.

Both of the ships sunk two years ago. Bill Ryan with the Oregon Department of State Lands said it's not yet clear why the Alert sunk, but the Sakarissa floundered after someone salvaging metal cut through a pipe, causing it to flood.

The Coast Guard raised the 100-foot Sakarissa from the river and towed it to a repair service to remove the remaining oil waste from the ship. Work to remove the 125-foot Alert was expected to begin.

3 injured in shooting at amusement park

PA WEST MIFFLIN — Three people, including two teenagers, were shot at an amusement park southeast of Pittsburgh, which was kicking off a Halloween-themed festival.

Police said two 15-year-olds

and an adult man were injured during the shooting reported at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pa. The victims were treated at hospitals and expected to recover, KDKA-TV reported.

Authorities said an argument between two groups of teenagers prompted the shooting by a suspect described as a male wearing a mask and black hoodie, KDKA-TV reported.

Kennywood had functioning metal detectors and security personnel were on duty, police said, leaving the unanswered question of how a gun entered the park. Police are investigating, KDKA-TV reported.

Man who allegedly drove over cop found

TN COLLIERVILLE — Tennessee authorities said they have found a man they believe fled the scene after hitting a police officer with a car and driving over him, sending him to the hospital with serious injuries.

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, initial reports showed a Collierville Police Department officer found a car believed to be involved in a shooting in Shelby County.

The agency said the driver hit the officer with the car, forcing him onto the vehicle's hood. Citing preliminary reports, the agency said the driver ran over the officer as he left.

Authorities said the officer fired at the man at some point, though it's unclear if any shots struck the driver. Authorities found the suspect identified as Keith Houston Jr., 32, in Shelby County after a search.

— From wire reports

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Jackson totals 5 TDs, Ravens top Pats

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Lamar Jackson has spent his career doing things nobody in the NFL has ever done.

The Ravens quarterback added another outstanding performance with his arm and his legs on Sunday.

Jackson threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score to help Baltimore (2-1) hold off the New England Patriots 37-26. He became the first player in the Super Bowl era with three or more passing touchdowns and 100-plus rushing yards in consecutive games.

The Patriots, meanwhile, lost quarterback Mac Jones late in the game to a leg injury that appears serious.

A week after Jackson's four-touchdown performance wasn't enough to stop a furious late charge by Miami, this time he got help from his defense, which forced turnovers on three straight fourth-quarter drives by the Patriots (1-2).

"No one has to tell me about Lamar Jackson," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "I believed in him from the first day we drafted him."

Baltimore led 14-13 at halftime, and Jackson said his mindset was to keep the pressure on.

"We've got to score, too," he said. "Last week when Miami started scoring and they

went on that run I think we put up three points. I wasn't having it. None of us on offense was having that this game."

Justin Tucker added a 56-yard field goal, the 50th of his career from 50 yards or more, as the Ravens won at New England in the regular season for the first time in seven tries.

The Patriots suddenly have questions at quarterback after Jones was hurt with less than two minutes to play. He hopped off the field and headed straight to the locker room, grimacing in pain as two members of the training staff helped him.

Jones completed 22 of 32 passes for 321 yards but threw three interceptions. Coach Bill Belichick provided no details about the injury.

Despite being under pressure for most of the day and losing another offensive lineman to an early injury, Jackson completed 18 of 29 passes for 218 yards with an interception. He rushed for 107 yards on 11 carries.

"He's just elite," said favorite target Mark Andrews, who had eight catches for 89 yards and two TDs.

DeVante Parker had five catches for 156 yards for the Patriots.

Jones had three of New England's four turnovers on the day. The other was a late fumble by Nelson Agholor.

"You're not going to win turning the ball over in the fourth quarter," Belichick said.

The Patriots trimmed the gap to 31-26 on a 1-yard TD run by Rhamondre Stevenson, but failed on a 2-point conversion try.

New England got the ball back when Rashod Bateman caught a 24-yard pass, then fumbled.

The Patriots took it down to the Ravens 10, but Jones' pass into the end zone over-shot Parker and was intercepted by Marlon Humphrey.

A quick three-and-out gave New England the ball back. But a 30-yard pass from Jones to Agholor ended with strip from behind by Kyle Hamilton and recovery by Marcus Peters along the sideline.

The Ravens capitalized, marching 73 yards to take a 37-26 lead on Jackson's 9-yard TD run.

Baltimore's offense was effective despite having to go deep into its roster because of injuries.

Left tackle Ronnie Stanley remained inactive as he continues to work his way back from the ankle issue that kept him sidelined for most of last season.

The Ravens then lost tackle Patrick Mekari on their first series to a left ankle injury, forcing them to go with fourth-stringer Daniel Faalele to protect Jackson's blind side.

Rodgers, Packers hold off Brady, Buccaneers

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers did just enough to beat Tom Brady and the short-handed Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The NFL MVP threw for 255 yards and two touchdowns, and the Packers withstood a late rally led by Brady to hold off the Bucs for a 14-12 victory in the first meeting between the teams since Tampa Bay won the NFC championship game two seasons ago.

"It's Week 3. It feels good for sure. There could be some tiebreakers and stuff down the line when you beat a team like this," Rodgers said after defeating Brady for the first time in three tries since the seven-time Super Bowl champion joined the Bucs in 2020.

"I have a ton of respect for him. He's been a trailblazer at the position for a long time," Rodgers said. "I've had a lot of fun competing against Tom over the years and it's always nice to come out on top."

Rodgers tossed TD passes of 5 yards to Romeo Doubs and 6 yards to Allen Lazard on his team's first two possessions, while the Bucs' offense sputtered much of the day without receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Julio Jones.

For the second straight week, Tampa Bay (2-1) was held without a touchdown into the fourth quarter. Brady finally got them into the end zone on a 1-yard pass to Russell Gage, capping an 89-yard drive with 14 seconds remaining.

The Bucs' bid to force overtime with a 2-point conversion was thwarted, first by a delay-of-game penalty and then an incomplete pass that was tipped by Green Bay linebacker DeVondre Campbell, who also had 14 tackles.

The Packers (2-1) forced two turnovers and held Tampa Bay to fewer than 200 net yards before the Bucs' final drive.

"One thing we always talk to our guys about is how are you going to respond when adversity strikes, specifically our defense," Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur said. "To allow a touchdown there in a two-minute drive and just to reset themselves and play that final play. It was a gritty team win. We had a lot of guys step up."

Rodgers completed 27 of 35 passes and was intercepted once in the first matchup in NFL history in which each starting quarterback has won at least three regular-season league MVP awards.

Rodgers has won four, including the past two, while Brady has three MVPs.

Ryan Succop kicked a pair of 45-yard field goals for Tampa Bay, the second trimming the Packers' lead to 14-6 midway through the third quarter.

Brady, who won three of four previous head-to-head matchups with Rodgers, finished 31 of 42 passing for 271 yards and one touchdown. He was sacked three times and got minimal help from a rushing attack that produced 34 yards on 14 attempts.

Dolphins stuff Bills, Allen late for upset

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The Miami Dolphins' defense stopped Josh Allen and the Bills at the goal line late, then held again after punter Thomas Morstead bizarrely kicked the ball off a teammate and out of the back of the end zone for a safety in a 21-19 win over Buffalo on Sunday.

Tua Tagovailoa and the Dolphins improved to 3-0 in an AFC East thriller that ended with Allen and the Bills attempting to spike the ball near midfield, the clock just running out on their chance to try a long-distance, go-ahead field goal.

Miami took a 21-17 lead with about 10 minutes left in the game on Chase Edmonds' 3-yard run. It was the Bills' first deficit of the season.

Despite being sacked and flagged for unnecessary roughness on the next drive, Allen drove Buffalo down the field with a 17-play, eight-minute drive. Miami's defense held, though, nearly intercepting a pass and forcing a turnover on downs from the 2-yard line.

Tagovailoa and the Dolphins went three-and-out, leaving little room for Morstead to try punting out of the end zone. His kick hit blocker Trent Sherfield in the backside and caromed out of bounds.

Allen guided Buffalo (2-1) into field goal range, but the Bills ran out of time.

Allen was 42-for-63 and passed for 400 yards after completing his first 11 passes for the first time in his career.

Vikings 28, Lions 24: Kirk Cousins connected with a wide-open K.J. Osborn for the go-ahead, 28-yard touchdown with 45 seconds remaining, and host Minnesota rallied past Detroit.

Dalvin Cook rushed for 96 yards and a score before leaving with a shoulder injury for the Vikings, who fell behind 14-0 and 24-14.

Panthers 22, Saints 14: Laviska Shenault caught a 67-yard touchdown pass from Baker Mayfield, Marquis Haynes re-

turned a fumble 44 yards for a touchdown and host Carolina beat New Orleans to snap a nine-game losing streak.

Mayfield threw for 170 yards and Christian McCaffrey ran for 108 as the Panthers (1-2) won at home for the first time since beating the Saints 26-7 on Sept. 19, 2021.

Broncos 11, 49ers 10: Melvin Gordon atoned for two fumbles with a late 1-yard touchdown run and safety Kareem Jackson recovered Jeff Wilson Jr.'s fumble with 1:05 left to preserve host Denver's win over San Francisco.

Russell Wilson and the Broncos (2-1) won despite going three-and-out nine times. Their only sustained drive was a 12-play, 80-yarder that included a 12-yard scramble by Wilson. Gordon capped it with a 1-yard run with 4:10 remaining, but Wilson's 2-point pass was batted down, leaving the Broncos clinging to a one-point lead.

Eagles 24, Commanders 8: DeVonta Smith caught eight passes from Jalen Hurts for a career-high 169 yards and a touchdown, Carson Wentz flopped in his first game against the team that drafted him and visiting Philadelphia routed Washington.

Hurts was 22-for-35 for 340 yards and three touchdown passes, one each to Smith, A.J. Brown and Dallas Goedert.

Titans 24, Raiders 22: Ryan Tannehill threw for 264 yards and a touchdown and ran for one score, and host Tennessee never trailed against Las Vegas.

Derrick Henry ran for 85 yards and a touchdown.

Trailing 24-16, the Raiders converted a fourth-and-15 and a fourth-and-10 to keep their final drive alive. Carr then hit Mack Hollins with a 9-yard TD pass on fourth-and-goal from the Titans 9. But Carr's 2-point conversion pass to tie the game was broken up by linebacker Dylan Cole.

Rams 20, Cardinals 12: Matthew Stafford threw for 249 yards, Cam Akers and Cooper Kupp both scored touchdowns and visiting Los Angeles used a stellar defensive

effort to beat Arizona.

The Cardinals' Kyler Murray was 37-for-58 passing for 314 yards. Marquise Brown caught 14 passes for 140 yards. They have lost seven of nine games dating to last season.

Jaguars 38, Chargers 10: Trevor Lawrence threw for 262 yards and three touchdowns, James Robinson rushed for 100 yards and a TD and visiting Jacksonville beat ailing Justin Herbert and Los Angeles.

Herbert started after being listed as questionable all week with a rib injury. The third-year quarterback passed for 297 yards but turned it over twice, finishing 25-for-45 with a touchdown.

Falcons 27, Seahawks 23: Cordarrelle Patterson rushed for a career-high 141 yards and a touchdown, Marcus Mariota threw a 14-yard TD to rookie Drake London in the second half and visiting Atlanta beat Seattle.

Geno Smith threw for 325 yards and two touchdowns for the Seahawks (1-2), but was intercepted by Richie Grant on a desperation fourth-and-18 from the Falcons 38 with 1:30 remaining.

Bengals 27, Jets 12: Joe Burrow threw three touchdown passes and visiting Cincinnati rolled past New York for its first win of the season.

Burrow finished 23-for-36 for 275 yards with TD throws to Samaje Perine, Tyler Boyd and Ja'Marr Chase.

Joe Flacco struggled in what will likely be his final start with the injured Zach Wilson expected to return next week for the Jets (1-2).

Bears 23, Texans 20: Roquan Smith set up Cairo Santos' game-ending field goal when he intercepted Davis Mills deep in Houston territory, and host Chicago beat former coach Lovie Smith and the Texans.

Khalil Herbert ran for a career-high 157 yards and two touchdowns for the Bears after David Montgomery exited early with knee and ankle injuries.

Ryan drives Colts past Chiefs for their first victory

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Matt Ryan kept the faith Sunday.

As the 37-year-old quarterback looked around the huddle, he sensed his Indianapolis Colts teammates would find a way to make some big plays late. Even-

tually, with a little help from the Kansas City defense, they did.

Ryan capped a masterfully managed final drive by finding rookie Jelani Woods on a 12-yard touchdown pass with 24 seconds left for a 20-17 comeback win over the Chiefs. It was

Ryan's first victory with the Colts — sealed by Rodney McLeod Jr.'s interception with 2 seconds to go.

While this one certainly wasn't pretty and, at times, was downright ugly, Indianapolis (1-1-1) still managed to snap a

four-game winless streak that dated to last season's final two games. It looked listless in all four.

This time, the defense stymied Patrick Mahomes & Co., giving up just a field goal in the second half.

Young Guardians claim AL Central division

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — A sturdy pair of goggles was mandatory attire Sunday in Cleveland's clubhouse, where impromptu showers of Champagne and beer broke out inside a thick haze of cigar smoke.

The Guardians, baseball's youngest team, finished an unexpected run to the top of the AL Central.

Rookie Steven Kwan hit a grand slam and drove in a season-high five runs as Cleveland clinched a division championship no one thought possible six months ago with a 10-4 win over the Texas Rangers.

When catcher Luke Maile squeezed Josh Smith's foul pop for the final out, the Guardians began celebrating a title that actually became official 15 minutes earlier following second-place Chicago's loss to the Detroit Tigers.

Tied for first Sept. 4, Cleveland has won seven straight and ripped off 18 wins in 21 games to open a 10-game lead and run away with the division.

Yankees 2, Red Sox 0 (6): Aaron Judge remained at 60 home runs, one short of Roger Maris' American League record, when New York's win over Boston was called after six innings because of rain.

Judge went 1-for-2 with a double and was due up next for the Yankees when play was stopped. The game was called after a 98-minute delay, sending Judge on the road to chase Maris in Toronto this week.

Braves 8, Phillies 7 (11): Ronald Acuña singled home the go-ahead run in the 11th inning and visiting Atlanta stayed close in the NL East race.

The Braves split the four-game series and remained 1½ games behind the division-leading New York Mets. They'll play

three games next weekend in Atlanta, with the Mets needing one win to secure the tiebreaker advantage of head-to-head wins.

Kyle Schwarber extended his National League-leading home run total to 42 with a pair of solo drives while scoring three times for the Philadelphia. The Phillies hold a 1½-game lead over the Brewers for the third NL wild card spot and a head-to-head tiebreaker over Milwaukee based on a 4-3 season series advantage.

Royals 13, Mariners 12: Luis Castillo, fresh off signing a rich contract with Seattle, got chased as host Kansas City erupted for 11 runs in the sixth inning of a wild win that cost the Mariners a chance to move up in the AL wild card standings.

Mitch Haniger singled twice during an eight-run fifth for Seattle and it led 11-2 going into the bottom of the sixth. But Castillo struggled, and Michael Massey homered and drove in four runs during the Royals' biggest inning since 2004.

The Mariners stayed in the third wild card spot, a half-game behind Tampa Bay. Seattle remained four games ahead of Baltimore for the last AL playoff slot.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2: Pinch-hitter Evan Longoria had a go-ahead, two-run single in the eighth inning to lead visiting San Francisco. J.D. Davis had four hits for the Giants, including a solo homer off Mark Melancon in the ninth.

Astros 6, Orioles 3 (11): Christian Vazquez hit a bases-loaded single to cap a four-run 11th inning for visiting Houston.

Baltimore's postseason hopes took another blow, missing a chance to move up in the AL wild card standings. It remained four games behind Seattle for the third and final spot.

Dodgers 4, Cardinals 1: Will Smith had two hits and Michael Grove pitched five solid innings to pick up his first career victory as host Los Angeles clinched the No. 1 overall seed in the National League.

Tigers 4, White Sox 1: Dylan Cease pitched six scoreless innings, but his bullpen got tagged and host Chicago was eliminated in the AL Central.

Blue Jays 7, Rays 1: George Springer homered twice, Alejandro Kirk and Teoscar Hernández also went deep and visiting Toronto earned a split of the four-game series.

Padres 13, Rockies 6: Manny Machado and Brandon Drury hit back-to-back home runs in a five-run eighth inning, Wil Myers also went deep, and visiting San Diego beat Colorado.

Mets 13, Athletics 4: Pete Alonso homered, doubled and drove in five runs, Max Scherzer pitched six sharp innings and visiting New York held its 1½-game NL East lead ahead of Atlanta.

Angels 10, Twins 3: Mike Trout had three hits, including his 37th homer of the season, and visiting Los Angeles beat Minnesota.

Reds 2, Brewers 1: Spencer Steer hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth, and Nick Lodolo pitched six strong innings to lead host Cincinnati.

Nationals 6, Marlins 1: Aníbal Sánchez threw five scoreless innings and visiting Washington beat Miami hours after the Marlins announced manager Don Mattingly won't be back next season.

Cubs 8, Pirates 3: Patrick Wisdom hit a three-run homer, Adrian Sampson tossed six efficient innings and visiting Chicago beat Pittsburgh.

Spieth goes 5-0, Americans rule Presidents Cup again

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Americans won the Presidents Cup again, no asterisk needed.

Sure, the International team lost at least four players — maybe more — who defected to Saudi-funded LIV Golf and were deemed ineligible by the PGA Tour.

It had eight rookies asked to play a new format before 40,000 flag-waving fans chanting for the home team. And the International

als have never won on American soil since these lopsided matches began in 1994.

No matter.

The Americans are tough to beat right now in any cup, under any circumstances.

Jordan Spieth made putts from all over Quail Hollow and capped off a 5-0 week, Xander Schauffele delivered the cup-clinching point and lit up his big cigar, and the Americans won the Presidents Cup for the ninth straight time.

Is anyone surprised?

"I think that the biggest challenge for us this week was staying within ourselves and not letting the outside noise get to us," Spieth said. "We saw notes ... put up all over the place that we were supposed to win and we're favorites and all that."

"What was so cool — which has been very consistent in the previous few Cups that I've been involved in — is everyone's really, really good at what they do."

The plucky International team still made them work for it. Spieth and Patrick Cantlay were in control of their matches and set the tone. Even so, the Internationals kept it interesting, a resilient effort considering they were down 8-2 going into the weekend.

But then Tony Finau flipped his match, Collin Morikawa played like a two-time major champion, Schauffele delivered the winner and another celebration was on.