

## Biden arrives in India for G-20

*Associated Press*

NEW DELHI—President Biden arrived here Friday on a four-day trip to Asia aimed at advancing a range of American priorities at a time when deep global divisions are challenging the relevance of the annual gathering of the Group of 20 economic powers.

Biden landed in the Indian capital and immediately headed to a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom Biden hosted recently for a state visit in Washington and who has been using the conference to bolster his standing at home. At the conclusion of the G-20 meeting Sunday, Biden will make a short stop in Vietnam, a country he is seeking to entice into a partnership against China.

Senior administration officials want to use the summit to advance financial support for developing countries as well as to project confidence in the importance of the G-20 — even as

leaders such as Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have decided to skip the meeting this year amid tensions over the war in Ukraine.

Upon arriving, Biden was greeted by several officials, including Eric Garcetti, the U.S. ambassador to India, and his daughter, Maya. Loud pop music played from a small stage nearby, and Biden paused briefly to listen and watch dancers, before getting into his car to travel to Modi's residence.

Aside from the meeting with Modi, Biden has planned no other formal bilateral meetings with G-20 participants; other leaders present include Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, although there may be informal engagements on the sidelines of the meetings.

Heading into the meeting with Modi, no reporters were expected to be allowed in to cover it. Usually, photographers

and videographers record the start of such meetings, and reporters often have an opportunity to shout questions at that point.

U.S. officials have pushed for days to provide some degree of media access to Biden's meeting with Modi but have met resistance from their Indian counterparts.

"Many of us at very senior levels have been significantly involved in this, but that doesn't always yield a particular journalist standing in a particular pool spray," national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters aboard Air Force One, using jargon for a photo opportunity.

Heading into two days of meetings involving the world's largest economic powers, U.S. officials said they hoped to arrive at a joint statement — something that has become more difficult, given a range of divisions, including on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"There's still some distance to travel before there is a final communiqué released to the public or agreed among the leaders, and we'll have to see what happens," Sullivan said.

One of Biden's top policy goals for the summit is increasing the capacity of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to lend money to developing countries. Biden has asked Congress to approve more than \$3 billion of financing for the World Bank and the IMF, and administration officials have said they think they can get other countries to make similar commitments, significantly increasing the money available.

Biden also plans to call on other G-20 members to provide debt relief for low- and middle-income countries. The United States also will focus on climate, health and digital technology, Sullivan said, including discussing the promise and peril of artificial intelligence.

## Russian missile attack kills policeman and injures 52

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian missile attack Friday on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown in central Ukraine killed one policeman and injured at least 52 others, emergency officials said, while another attack in the southern Kherson region killed three people.

The strikes were among multiple Russian attacks across the country overnight, officials said. Meanwhile, Moscow is trying to strengthen its position politically with local elections in areas it has illegally annexed, including

some it still does not control. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it does not recognize the "fake elections."

The strikes came days after 16 people were killed in a Russian attack on a market in eastern Ukraine and drone debris was found in Romania. That sparked fears among local residents that the war could spread into the NATO-member country bordering Ukraine.

Ten buildings were damaged in the attack on Zelenskyy's hometown of Kryvyi Rih on Friday. Three people pulled from the rubble were in serious con-

dition, according to Ihor Klymenko, Ukraine's minister of Internal Affairs. Photos posted by Klymenko on Telegram showed a building on fire, burnt timbers and emergency services evacuating the injured.

Three people were also killed Friday after a Russian bomb struck the village of Odradokamianka in the Kherson region of southern Ukraine, Klymenko said.

Also on Friday, a funeral was being held for an 18-year-old who was among 16 people killed Wednesday in a Russian attack on a market in Kostiantynivka in

Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region. The attack, which wounded 33 others, turned the market into a fiery, blackened ruin and overshadowed a two-day visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken aimed at assessing Ukraine's three-month-old counteroffensive. Blinken's visit signaled ongoing U.S. support with the announcement of an additional \$1 billion in aid.

Meanwhile, Russia is holding local elections in the part of the Kherson region it controls. Local elections are also being held in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions.

# N. Korea says new sub can launch nukes

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Friday its new submarine has nuclear attack capabilities after years of development. Leader Kim Jong Un described the milestone as crucial in his efforts to build a nuclear-armed navy to counter the United States and its Asian allies.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the vessel, named "Hero Kim Kun Ok," is designed to launch tactical nuclear weapons from underwater but did not specify the number of missiles it could carry and fire.

South Korean officials were skeptical that the submarine would work as North Korea described and said it likely wasn't ready for operational duty. Still, the vessel's development underscored how the North continues to potentially extend the range of its nuclear arsenal with systems that are harder to detect in advance.

Based on Kim Jong Un's comments and photos by North Korean state media, it's likely the submarine is the same one Kim inspected in 2019 while it was under construction. At the time, experts assessed it as an effort to

convert an existing Romeo-class submarine.

The submarine appears to have at least 10 launch tubes — four of them apparently larger than the other six — that are possibly designed for missiles.

"This submarine, though heavily modified, is based on 1950s Soviet-origin technology and will have inherent limitations. Nevertheless, in terms of complicating the targeting challenges that the U.S. and its allies will face, the submarine will serve North Korea's purposes," said Ankit Panda, an expert with the Carnegie Endowment for In-

ternational Peace.

In recent years, North Korea tested a variety of missiles designed to be fired from submarines as it pursued the ability to conduct nuclear strikes from underwater. In theory, such capacity would bolster its deterrent by ensuring a survivable capability to retaliate after absorbing a nuclear attack on land.

Ballistic missile submarines would also add a maritime threat to the North's growing collection of solid-fuel weapons fired from land vehicles that are designed to overwhelm missile defenses in South Korea and Japan.

## Inside the brand new White House Situation Room

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The White House Situation Room — a space of great mystique and even greater secrecy — just got a \$50 million face-lift.

Actually, "room" is a misnomer. It's a 5,500-square-foot, highly secure complex of conference rooms and offices on the ground floor of the West Wing.

These are rooms where history happens, where the president meets with national security officials to discuss secret operations and sensitive government matters, speaks with foreign leaders and works through major national security crises.

Where President Barack Obama and his team watched the raid that took down al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in 2011. Where President Donald Trump monitored the 2019 operation that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Where President Lyndon Johnson went over Vietnam War plans.

The latest redo was no small update: The total gut renovation took a year to complete.

The White House opened the

classified space to a group of reporters this week for a rare visit to check out the new look. President Joe Biden got a tour on Tuesday and then received an intelligence briefing in the space, said Marc Gustafson, the Situation Room director.

"He loved it; he thought the update was fantastic," Gustafson said.

"Folks, the newly renovated White House Situation Room is up and running," Biden said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. "My thanks to everyone who worked on this incredible facility."

The renovated space has a modern-but-vintage vibe. Old floors, furniture, computers and other tech were stripped out and replaced with pristine mahogany paneling from Maryland, stonework from a Virginia quarry, LED lights that can change colors and flat-screen panels. See-through glass offices fade to opaque with the press of a button. The whole space has that new car smell.

But there are still plenty of landline phones: No cellphones are allowed in the secure space

for security reasons. (There are cubbies to stow phones near a door leading outside, where a baggie with some cocaine was found earlier this year.)

Access is tightly controlled and generally restricted to the president's national security and military advisers. Anyone listening in on classified briefings needs clearance. Even the contractors working on the renovation had to get temporary security clearances. Illuminated signs flash green for declassified and red for classified.

The hush-hush complex was created in 1961 by the Kennedy administration after the Bay of Pigs invasion. President John F. Kennedy believed there should be a dedicated crisis management center where officials could coordinate intelligence faster and better.

That was an upgrade, to be sure. But it wasn't exactly comfortable: Nixon administration national security adviser and then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger described the space as "uncomfortable, unaesthetic and essentially oppressive."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terro-

rist attacks, the White House did a significant Situation Room update, along with a broader upgrade to presidential communications on Air Force One and the presidential helicopter. Presidents used the complex for secure video conferences before such tech became more portable. The last renovation was in 2007.

The complex is staffed around the clock by military and civilian personnel who monitor breaking developments worldwide.

It has a reception area with a U.S. seal in stonework. Behind that is the main conference room, known as the "JFK room." To the right are a smaller conference room and two soundproof "breakout rooms." To the left is the "watch floor," a 24-7 operations center.

"It's a marriage of the traditional and the modern," Gustafson said of the new space.

Workers dug five feet underground to make more room and install cutting-edge technology allowing White House officials to bring together intelligence from different agencies with the push of a few buttons.

# Ga. panel recommended more charges

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A report released on Friday revealed that a special grand jury investigating efforts to overturn Georgia's 2020 presidential election results recommended indictments against a much larger group than prosecutors ultimately charged, including one current and two former U.S. senators.

The nine-page report showed jurors recommended charges against 39 people, compared to the 18 who were charged along with former President Donald Trump. Those not indicted included Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, former U.S. Sens. Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue of Georgia and former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Parts of the report, which has

19 pages of appendices, had been released in February, but a judge had delayed the release of any recommendations for specific charges against specific people until after last month's indictment. While most of the intrigue in the inner workings of the case has diminished with the filing of charges, it is notable that the special grand jury recommended charges for many people who were not actually indicted.

A spokesperson for Trump, the early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, criticized the release in a statement, calling it "biased, un-American."

Graham, Loeffler, Perdue and a lawyer who has represented Flynn did not immediately return messages seeking comment Friday.

The special grand jury included Graham's name in a section about "the national effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election, which Trump lost to Joe Biden, a Democrat. The South Carolina Republican called Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger shortly after the November 2020 election. Raffensperger has said Graham asked him about whether he had the power to reject certain absentee ballots.

Perdue and Loeffler were sitting U.S. senators who had failed to win enough votes in the November 2020 general election and were forced into a January 2021 runoff, which they both ultimately lost to Democratic challengers. In the weeks after the election, they were vocal in their criticism of Raffensperger, going so far as to call for his resigna-

tion.

In an interview on a right-wing cable news channel in mid-December 2020, Flynn said Trump "could take military capabilities" and place them in swing states and "basically re-run an election in each of those states." He also traveled to the South Carolina home of conservative lawyer Lin Wood in November 2020, when Wood has said meetings were held to discuss possible ways to influence the election results in Georgia and elsewhere.

The panel spent seven months hearing from some 75 witnesses before completing a report in December with recommendations for Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis on charges related to attempts to overturn the election.

## Trump visits South Dakota for rally with governor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As his rivals hold town halls and meet-and-greets in early voting states, Donald Trump was heading to South Dakota on Friday for a party fundraiser that will double as an opportunity for the state's governor, Kristi Noem, to showcase herself as a potential vice presidential pick.

Trump was to join the South Dakota Republican Party for a "Monumental Leaders Rally" in

Rapid City. Noem was to appear alongside the former president and was expected to endorse him, creating an image of the pair that Noem's allies hope looks like a presidential ticket, according to two senior Republicans familiar with her thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity because she had not yet made her endorsement public.

Trump's decision to headline the event underscores his dom-

inance of the Republican race even as he faces four separate indictments and 91 felony counts. South Dakota holds a late primary and isn't competitive in a general election. But with a huge lead, Trump is skipping much of the traditional primary campaign. Instead of large-scale rallies, he is relying on state party events that offer large, friendly audiences at no cost to his campaign, while his political organization pays mil-

lions of dollars in legal expenses.

Friday's visit by Trump is something of an audition for Noem. She planned the event as a way to both offer her endorsement and maximize face time with Trump as he considers potential 2024 running mates and cabinet members, according to one of the Republicans who spoke anonymously. A spokesman for the governor declined to comment.

## Ex-White House official Navarro convicted of contempt

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trump White House official Peter Navarro was found guilty Thursday of contempt of Congress charges for refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The verdict came after a short trial for Navarro, who served as a White House trade adviser under

President Donald Trump and later promoted the Republican's baseless claims of mass voter fraud in the 2020 election he lost.

Navarro was the second Trump aide to face contempt of Congress charges after former White House adviser Steve Bannon. Bannon was convicted of two counts and was sentenced to four months behind bars, though he has been free pending appeal.

Navarro vowed to appeal the verdict, saying the "die was cast" after a judge ruled that he couldn't fight the charges by arguing he couldn't cooperate with the committee because Trump had invoked executive privilege.

U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta found that Navarro didn't have enough evidence to show Trump had invoked it.

"This is a landmark case that's

bound for the Supreme Court," Navarro said. Defense attorney John Rowley echoed that, saying "this case is not over by a long shot."

Mehta scheduled Navarro's sentencing for Jan. 12. Navarro was convicted in Washington's federal courthouse of two misdemeanor counts of contempt of Congress, both punishable by up to a year behind bars.



# Hurricane Lee tears through the Atlantic

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Hurricane Lee on Friday charged through warm Atlantic waters as the season's first Category 5 storm, threatening to unleash heavy swells across the northeast Caribbean.

The hurricane is not expected to make landfall, but meteorologists warned it would generate dangerous waves of up to 15 feet across the northern coast of Puerto Rico and other nearby islands. While Lee is on a path that would take it a couple hundred miles northeast of the Caribbean, tropical storm conditions are not forecast for the region.

"Although the hurricane is incredibly powerful, its wind field is not particularly large," the National Hurricane Center said.

The hurricane was located about 630 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands. It had winds of up to 165 miles per hour and was moving west-northwest at 14 mph.

Lee is expected to keep strengthening and reach winds of up to 180 mph. Only seven Atlantic hurricanes have had winds of that magnitude since 1966, according to Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

Among those was Hurricane Dorian, which pummeled the northern Bahamas in 2019 as a Category 5 storm, hovering over small islands for some two days.

The center said that dangerous surf and deadly rip currents will likely hit the northern Leeward Islands later Friday. They would spread to Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, the Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas and Bermuda over the weekend.

"We will see waves between 10 and 15 feet, so we don't want anyone on the beaches," said

Ernesto Morales with the National Weather Service in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The National Hurricane Center said dangerous surf and rip currents were forecast for most of the U.S. East Coast starting Sunday.

President Joe Biden on Thursday was given the hurricane's latest trajectory and details of preparations underway by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, which deployed unidentified assets to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to the White House.

Lee is the 12th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 and peaks in September.

Tropical Storm Margot became the 13th named storm after forming on Thursday evening.

It was located some 460 miles west-northwest of the Cabo Verde Islands. It had winds of up to 40 mph and was forecast to strengthen into a hurricane over the weekend. It was moving west-northwest at 16 mph and is expected to remain over open water.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in August forecasted between 14 and 21 named storms this season, with six to 11 of them expected to become hurricanes, and of those, two to five possibly developing into major hurricanes.

In the Pacific, Hurricane Jova churned through open waters far from Mexico's southwest coast as a Category 2 storm. It posed no threat to land.

It was located about 685 miles west-southwest of the southern tip of Baja, Calif., and was moving west-northwest at 16 mph with winds up to 110 mph.

## Maui urges tourists, hoping to boost economy after fires

Associated Press

KAHULUI, Hawaii — Richie Olsten has been in Maui's helicopter tour business for a half century, so long he's developed a barometer for the tourism-dependent economy: rental cars parked at the island's airport.

There are so many since wildfires killed at least 115 people in the historic town of Lahaina that Olsten is worried about a full-blown economic catastrophe. Restaurants and tour companies are laying off workers, and unemployment is surging.

State tourism officials, after initially urging travelers to stay away, are now asking them to come back, avoid the burn zone and help Maui recover by spending their money. Airlines have started offering steep discounts, while some resorts have slashed room rates by 20% or are offering a fifth night free.

"I know what a terrible disaster that was. But now we're in crisis mode," Olsten said. "If we can't keep the people that have

jobs employed, how are they going to help family members and friends that lost everything?"

The number of visitors arriving on Maui sank about 70% after the Aug. 8 fire, down to 2,000 a day.

Olsten's Air Maui Helicopters now operates one or two flights a day, compared with 25 to 30 before the fires.

"Maui's not closed," Mayor Richard Bissen said in a recent interview.

People shouldn't go to Lahaina or the surrounding West Maui area — "It's not a place to stare," Bissen said — but the rest of Maui needs tourists. "Respect the West, visit the rest," is the motto some have adopted.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority drafted and publicized a map showing Lahaina and West Maui in relation to the rest of the island, highlighting just how much was still open. The authority is also launching a \$2.6 million marketing plan to lure tourists back.

## Mali military camp attacked a day after 2 fatal assaults

Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali — A military camp in Mali's restive north was attacked Friday, a day after two separate assaults by al-Qaida-linked insurgents killed 49 civilians and 15 government soldiers, the military said.

"Response and evaluation in progress," the armed forces said in a brief statement about Friday's attack on a Malian military camp in the Gao region.

Thursday's attacks targeted a passenger boat near the city of Timbuktu on the Niger River and a military position in Bamba further downstream in Gao, the military junta said in a statement read on state television. It said responsibility for the attacks was claimed by JNIM, an

umbrella coalition of armed groups aligned with al-Qaida. The group issued a statement Friday saying it also attacked the military camp.

The triple-decker passenger boat was targeted near the village of Zarho, about 55 miles east of Timbuktu. The statement said the government killed about 50 assailants while responding to the attacks. It declared three days of national mourning to honor the civilians and soldiers killed in the attacks.

Malian army spokesman Souleymane Dembélé attributed the high death toll to the inability of some of the boat's passengers to swim, suggesting some might have drowned.

# Greece orders evacuations amid flooding

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Rescue crews in helicopters and boats were plucking people from areas of central Greece inundated by tons of water and mud Friday after severe rainstorms caused widespread flooding that left at least six people dead, another six missing and many clinging to the roofs of their homes.

Flooding triggered by rainstorms also hit neighboring Bulgaria and Turkey, killing a total of 18 people in all three countries since the rains began on Tuesday.

In Greece, the rainstorms turned streams into raging torrents that burst dams, washed away roads and bridges and

hurled cars into the sea. Authorities said that some areas received twice the average annual rainfall for Athens in the space of just 12 hours.

Although the rainstorms had ebbed by Friday, floodwater continued to rise after the Piniolos River burst its banks near the city of Larissa, one of Greece's largest cities with a population of around 150,000, triggering evacuation orders for several areas.

"The situation is tragic," Larissa resident Ioanna Gana told Greece's Open television channel, adding that water levels in her flooded neighborhood were rising "minute by minute."

Prime Minister Kyriakos

Mitsotakis, who canceled his annual state of the economy speech scheduled for the weekend and was visiting the flooded areas on Friday, said that he had contacted the European Union to request financial assistance from the 27-member bloc for rebuilding.

Hundreds of people were believed to be trapped in villages unreachable by vehicle as roads were washed away or severed by rockfalls. Rescue crews helped young children, the elderly and people on stretchers from helicopters as they landed in a staging area in the town of Karditsa. Local media showed scenes of devastation.

Rescuers chest-deep in water

carried an elderly evacuee on a stretcher on their shoulders, while residents of villages left without electricity or drinking water dialed in to Greek television and radio stations, appealing for help and saying people were still trapped without food or water.

The fire department said that 270 people had been airlifted to safety on Thursday and Friday, while rescues continued.

Separately, the coast guard said the body of a 69-year-old man was recovered from the sea in the coastal town of Volos on Friday, but added that it wasn't clear whether the flooding was responsible for his death.

## 2 dead in Hong Kong amid extreme rain, flash floods

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Heavy rain in Hong Kong and southern China overnight flooded city streets and some subway stations, with hundreds evacuated and two deaths reported in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong authorities said during a joint news conference Friday that the extreme weather was expected to last until at least midnight, with widespread flooding and heavy disruptions to public transport in multiple districts.

An official from the Hong Kong observatory said the city had recorded more than 23 inches of rain so far — a quarter of the city's average annual rainfall. The Hong Kong Observatory said it recorded 6.2 inches of rain in the hour between 11 p.m. Thursday and

midnight, the highest recording for a single hour since records began in 1884.

Hong Kong police said that two bodies were found floating in waters in different parts of the city. The city's fire services department said it had evacuated 110 people and assisted 20 injured people.

The city's response to the rain and floods has drawn criticism from residents online, who questioned the authorities' preparedness for such an emergency.

Hong Kong's No. 2 official, Eric Chan, said that the predictability of rainfall "cannot be compared with that of a typhoon." He said that various departments in Hong Kong had been working overnight to tackle the situation.

## Rubiales accused of assault, coercion for World Cup kiss

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Spanish state prosecutors have accused Luis Rubiales of sexual assault and coercion for kissing a player on the lips without her consent after the Women's World Cup final, the country's prosecutors' office said Friday.

Rubiales, the now-suspended president of the Spanish soccer federation, kissed Jenni Hermoso during the awards ceremony after Spain beat England to win the title on Aug. 20 in Sydney. Prosecutors presented their case for potential criminal charges against Rubiales to Spain's National Court in Madrid two days after Hermoso formally accused him of sexual assault.

FIFA suspended Rubiales from his post on Aug. 27, a day

after he refused to step down when he delivered a defiant speech to the general assembly of his federation in which he said he was the victim of a "witch hunt" by "false feminists." He was banned from his post for 90 days while FIFA disciplinary judges consider his case. Soccer's governing body can impose sanctions on individuals ranging from warnings and fines to suspensions.

Prosecutors added Friday that Rubiales could have committed an act of coercion when, according to Hermoso, he pressured her to speak out in his defense immediately after the scandal erupted.

Rubiales has insisted the kiss was consensual. Hermoso has denied that in statements issued by her and her players union.

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# Lions rally to defeat Chiefs in opener

*Associated Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Lions walked into roaring Arrowhead Stadium on Thursday night, where the Kansas City Chiefs are nearly unbeatable and were trying to open their latest Super Bowl title defense with a win, and proved what Detroit coach Dan Campbell has come to know in turning around the long downtrodden franchise.

"This is a resilient team," Campbell said. "We're built to handle some stuff."

Now, everyone else knows it too.

Under the bright spotlight of the NFL's season opener, Jared Goff threw for 253 yards and a touchdown, new Lions running back David Montgomery ran for the go-ahead score late in the game and Detroit held on for a 21-20 victory over the Chiefs.

"We expected to win this game," said Campbell, who won just three games his first season but led the Lions to eight wins over their final 10 games a year ago, when they went 9-8 and

narrowly missed the playoffs. "We came in here, knew what we needed to do, knew it wasn't going to be easy, and we did that. We won."

Amon-Ra St. Brown had six catches for 71 yards and a score, and Lions rookie Brian Branch returned Patrick Mahomes' first pick in an opener 50 yards for another touchdown, helping Detroit snap the Chiefs' eight-game Week 1 winning streak.

The Lions also snapped their own five-game skid in season openers.

"A lot of work has been put in this offseason," Goff said, "and you want to start off winning the first one, and we did that today. We didn't play the best on offense, I thought the defense kept us in the game, but we found a way."

The Lions were trying to run out the clock when Goff's fourth-down pass near midfield was batted down with 2:30 left, giving the Chiefs a chance. But they made a mess of it: Kadarius Toney dropped a potential 20-yard gain, a deep completion

was called back for holding, Skyy Moore dropped a pass and a false start left Mahomes heaving a fourth-and-25 throw downfield.

When it fell incomplete and Detroit took over, Montgomery ran for a first down and the Lions ran out the clock.

Mahomes finished with 226 yards passing and two touchdowns, despite his receivers dropping a slew of passes. He also was the leading rusher for the Chiefs, whose self-inflicted wounds proved too much to overcome.

"Got to be better," Mahomes said.

There had been equal parts anticipation and anxiety leading up to the game in Kansas City, where the Chiefs had celebrated their previous Lombardi Trophy in the midst of a pandemic, and only about 18,000 fans were able to join in the revelry.

Hundreds began tailgating outside the Arrowhead Stadium parking lots 14 hours before kickoff Thursday, and NFL

commissioner Roger Goodell along with about 80,000 more people joined them to see the Chiefs raise their latest championship banner.

That was the anticipation. The anxiety came from the absence of Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce and fellow All-Pro Chris Jones, who is in the midst of a contract holdout.

The defensive tackle was expected to miss the opener, but Kelce had only been questionable since Tuesday, when he hyperextended his knee in the final full practice before game day.

"It wasn't feeling right," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "I wasn't going to put him out there with that, and he was honest with me."

Detroit scored first in a show-down of two of the league's top offenses a year ago.

Goff took advantage of a clean pocket, thanks in part to Jones sitting in a stadium suite, to march down field and find St. Brown with a 9-yard touchdown pass.

## Bengals' Burrow becomes NFL's highest-paid player

*Associated Press*

Joe Burrow is taking his turn as the NFL's highest-paid player after agreeing to the latest megadeal for a prominent quarterback leaguewide, just ahead of his fourth season with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Burrow, the former No. 1 overall selection in the NFL draft who has led the formerly downtrodden Bengals to two straight AFC championship games and a Super Bowl appearance, agreed to a five-year contract extension worth \$275 million. The agreement was confirmed Thursday night by a person familiar with the terms.

The \$55 million average annual value of Burrow's deal surpasses the \$52.5 million-per-

year mark set by quarterback Justin Herbert's five-year, \$262.5 million extension completed in July with the Los Angeles Chargers.

Herbert's deal eclipsed Lamar Jackson's five-year, \$260 million extension with the Baltimore Ravens in April. Jackson's deal came on the heels of Jalen Hurts' five-year, \$255 million extension with the Philadelphia Eagles earlier that month.

Burrow, Herbert and Hurts became eligible to sign extensions this past offseason, under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the league and the NFL Players Association, after completing their third NFL season.

Burrow, 26, had two seasons remaining on his existing contract after the Bengals previously exercised their fifth-year option in his original rookie deal. That contract was to pay him nearly \$5.5 million this season and \$29.5 million next season.

It is believed that the extension will keep Burrow under contract with the Bengals through the 2029 season.

Burrow, a former Heisman Trophy winner at LSU, has lived up to the considerable expectations that accompanied the Bengals drafting him first overall in 2020. He was selected to the Pro Bowl last season and has become one of the league's biggest and most popular stars.

After having his rookie season cut short by a knee injury, Burrow returned to win comeback player of the year honors for the 2021 season while leading the Bengals to their first Super Bowl appearance since the 1988 season. They lost to the Los Angeles Rams, then returned to the AFC championship game last season but were beaten by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Burrow suffered a calf injury during training camp this summer but has resumed practicing and is expected to play in the Bengals' season-opening game Sunday at Cleveland.

He has thrown for 11,774 yards and 82 touchdowns in his three NFL seasons.



# Gauff reaches her first US Open final

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nineteen-year-old Coco Gauff reached the doorstep of her first U.S. Open final in a relative hurry. Then she was made to wait.

She had to pause nearly an hour through a stoppage of play in her semifinal against the Czech Republic's Karolina Muchova because of a protest from climate activists, and that wasn't nearly as tense as the five match points she lost before she finally knocked off Muchova, 6-4, 7-5. Even that took a marathon, 40-shot rally lasting more than a minute that Gauff clinched with a virtuoso forehand winner to set up her sixth match point.

She issued a restrained double fist pump after Muchova finally sent one last groundstroke long, then emotion overwhelmed and she screamed as a thunderous crowd at Arthur Ashe Stadium screamed back. Gauff will play the second-seeded Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka on Saturday for the U.S. Open title and her first Grand Slam trophy.

She is the youngest American

to make the final in New York since Serena Williams in 2001.

At 25, Sabalenka claimed her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open this year and improved to 2-5 in major semifinals with an 0-6, 7-6 (7-1), 7-6 (10-5) win over Madison Keys. She fought back after losing the first set in 30 minutes and sank to her knees when she won — after a minor blip when she thought she had won the match at 7-3 in the third-set tiebreaker. At the U.S. Open, decisive-set tiebreakers are to 10 points.

Even if she loses Saturday, she has a built-in consolation prize: She will be the new No. 1 come Monday morning because of Iga Swiatek's fourth-round loss.

"Honestly, I was thinking that if I'm going to lose this semifinal, I'll be struggling with sleeping for I don't know how many days, and I was just, like, I don't want this to happen. I need some sleep," Sabalenka said, laughing. "I was just, like, come on, keep trying, keep pushing, like, I don't know, do something extra. Just try to turn around this match. I think this kind of

thinking really helped me to stay in the game and to keep trying, keep pushing, to still have this belief that I have a chance to turn around this match."

Sabalenka, like Gauff, will play in her second Grand Slam final but first U.S. Open final. Unlike Sabalenka, Gauff lost her first attempt at a trophy at the French Open in 2022.

If the path to Saturday's championship match felt winding for the teenager, it wasn't long at all.

Sixty-six days ago, Gauff sat in a room well above the manicured grass courts of Wimbledon as darkness fell. She looked somehow younger than her teenage years as she conveyed her disappointment after a surprising first-round loss.

"I feel like I have been working hard, but clearly it's not enough," Gauff said at the time, adding that she would be going "back to the drawing board."

The weeks that ensued brought a flurry of change: two new coaches, Pere Riba and Brad Gilbert, and a shift in dynamic on her team — Gauff's father and longtime coach, Corey,

now operates from the happy position of "just dad." There was an attitude shift, too, as Gauff vowed to play with more joy on court and relax a little. Last month in Washington, before she won the first of two titles she has collected since Wimbledon, Gauff said she was in a building phase.

Think of her game like a house, Gauff said. She had the land and a strong foundation but wanted to make it "as extravagant and big and pretty as possible."

Her play since has certainly been big and pretty, but extravagant might be a stretch. Gauff employed the quite reasonable combination of athleticism and problem-solving to pick apart a wide range of opponents on the way to Thursday's match: hard-hitting 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko; relentless defender and 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki; precocious 16-year-old Mira Andrejeva; and accomplished tour veterans Laura Siegemund and Elise Mertens, surprising herself with each win.

## Climate protester glues feet to the floor at US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coco Gauff's U.S. Open semifinal victory over Karolina Muchova was delayed by 50 minutes because of a disruption by four environmental activists in the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands Thursday night. One protester glued his bare feet to the concrete floor.

Gauff was leading 1-0 in the second set when play was halted. She would go on to win 6-4, 7-5.

"I always speak about preaching about what you feel and what you believe in. It was done in a peaceful way, so I can't get too mad at it. Obviously I don't want it to happen when

I'm winning up 6-4, 1-0, and I wanted the momentum to keep going," said Gauff, a 19-year-old from Florida. "But hey, if that's what they felt they needed to do to get their voices heard, I can't really get upset at it."

Security guards and, later, more than a half-dozen police officers went over to confront the protesters, who were wearing shirts that read, "End Fossil Fuels." The U.S. Tennis Association said three of the protesters were escorted out of the stadium without further incident, but it took longer to remove the person who stuck his feet to the ground.

The USTA added that NYPD

and medical personnel were needed in order to safely remove that person. All four activists were taken into police custody.

Muchova said that, initially, she "thought it was, like, fans screaming, cheering."

A group called Extinction Rebellion said it was responsible for the protest.

One of the protesters, who identified himself only as Ian, told The Associated Press the group believes the U.S. Open has sponsorship deals with corporations whose policies are contributing to global warming.

"We are not trying to harm the athletes in any way. We have

nothing against the sport," he said. "But we are really trying to draw attention to an issue here that there will be no tennis left for anybody in the world to enjoy."

Spectators were asked to move away to clear a path for the police, who were cheered by fans sitting near the section where the disruption happened.

Gauff sat on her sideline bench for a bit during the break in the match, eating fruit out of a plastic container, before then getting some tennis balls and hitting a few practice serves. Muchova was briefly visited by a trainer during the interruption.

# Germany stuns US at FIBA World Cup

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — There will be no gold medal for the U.S. at this World Cup. And for the second consecutive time in FIBA's biggest tournament, there might not even be any medal at all for the Americans.

Instead, it's Germany on the cusp of a basketball world title.

Andreas Obst scored 24 points, Franz Wagner added 22 and Germany shredded the U.S. defense for much of the way in its first win over the Americans — 113-111 in the World Cup semifinals on Friday night.

The U.S., down by 10 midway through the fourth, nearly

pulled off a comeback, getting within one point on two separate occasions in the final minutes. But the Americans never got the lead, and it was the Germans jumping and hugging as time expired.

Germany — the last unbeaten team left in the tournament at 7-0 — will play Serbia on Sunday for the World Cup title. Serbia beat Canada in the first semifinal, getting to its second World Cup final in the last three tournaments; it lost 129-92 to the U.S. in the 2014 championship game.

Canada will play the U.S. for bronze Sunday.

Anthony Edwards scored 23

points for the U.S. (5-2), which got 21 from Austin Reaves, 17 from Mikal Bridges and 15 from Jalen Brunson. The Americans shot 58% — but let Germany shoot 58% as well, and that was the ultimate undoing.

Germany had been 0-6 against the Americans in World Cup or Olympic competition, usually getting blown out in those games.

Not this time. Once again, even bringing the only roster filled with all NBA players wasn't enough for the U.S. at the World Cup. The Americans finished seventh at the 2019 World Cup in China; this finish — third

or fourth — will technically be better, but nothing other than gold was going to be satisfactory for USA Basketball.

A 35-24 third quarter was basically the difference for Germany, which this time finished the job that it couldn't pull off when meeting the Americans in Abu Dhabi for an exhibition earlier this summer. Germany led that game by 16 in the second half, then an 18-0 run by the Americans down the stretch led to a 99-91 U.S. win.

It needed similar heroics this time. They almost got there. Key word: almost. This time, Germany finished it off.

## Rookie pitcher Pepiot shines as Dodgers rout Marlins

Associated Press

MIAMI — Rookie Ryan Pepiot pitched a perfect game for 6⅓ innings as Julio Urias' replacement in the Dodgers' rotation, and Los Angeles routed the Miami Marlins 10-0 on Thursday night.

Josh Bell grounded a single up the middle with two outs in the seventh for the only hit off Pepiot. Garrett Hampson's leadoff single in the eighth off Caleb Ferguson was the only other Marlins hit in the game.

Pepiot (3-0) was recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City to take the place of Urias, who was put on the restricted list following his arrest Sunday in Los Angeles on suspicion of corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant. The right-hander struck out three and induced nine groundouts, throwing 60 of 84 pitches for strikes.

Chris Taylor had five RBIs that included his 15th home run, a double and a single. Miguel Rojas and Will Smith had three hits each.

Marlins starter Braxton Garrett (8-6) allowed one run, three hits, three walks and a hit batter in 3⅓ innings.

**Mariners 1, Rays 0:** Luis Castillo worked six innings and won his sixth consecutive decision, Mike Ford drove in the game's only run and Seattle won in a matchup of playoff contenders.

Castillo (12-7) allowed four hits, four walks and struck out eight. Andrés Muñoz worked the ninth to get his 12th save, striking out pinch hitter Harold Ramírez to end the game.

Eugenio Suárez doubled lead-off off the second and scored on Ford's single.

Tampa Bay starter Zack Littell (3-5) went a career-high eight innings, giving up one run and five hits.

**Angels 3, Guardians 2:** Randal Grichuk hit a two-out, walk-off single after Kyren Paris tied the score with his first career RBI and host Los Angeles snapped a six-game skid.

Paris scored the winning run for the Angels, who rallied in the ninth against Emmanuel Clase (2-8) for only their second win in 11 games. Clase blew a save for the 10th time in 48 chances.

Jose Soriano (3-2) pitched the ninth for Los Angeles.

**Tigers 10, Yankees 3:** Spencer Torkelson hit a pair of two-

run homers as visiting Detroit dealt New York's slim playoff hopes a setback.

Carlos Rodón (2-5) allowed Torkelson's first homer two batters in and was tagged for seven runs and eight hits in 3⅓ innings as the Yankees dropped back to .500 after winning five straight. Trying to avoid its first losing season since 1992, New York has just 22 games left and is seven games back of Toronto for the AL's last wild card.

Torkelson put Detroit ahead 2-0 with a drive into the right field short porch and hit his second off Randy Vásquez in the fourth. Andy Ibáñez also hit a two-run homer for Detroit.

Eduardo Rodríguez (11-7) allowed three runs and four hits in six innings.

**Braves 8, Cardinals 5:** Ronald Acuña Jr. hit two of Atlanta's five home runs and Matt Olson increased his major league-leading total to 47 in a win over St. Louis.

Acuña raised his season total to 34 homers with his third multi-homer game this season and the 12th of his career. Olson homered for his fourth straight game, and Michael Harris II

and Travis d'Arnaud also went deep for Atlanta.

Max Fried (7-1) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings, improving to 5-0 in his last seven starts.

Adam Wainwright (3-11) allowed six runs and eight hits in 5⅓ innings, including four solo home runs.

**Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 2:** Tommy Pham hit two first-pitch home runs and Ryne Nelson was efficient on the mound in his return from the minors in Arizona's win over Chicago.

Ketel Marte added his 22nd homer to help the Diamondbacks move a half-game ahead of Miami for the last of the three NL wild-card spots. Chicago holds the No. 2 wild card, three games ahead of Arizona.

Nelson (7-7), recalled from Triple-A Reno, gave up two hits while striking out three and walking two in the first 5⅓ innings. Paul Sewald finished for his 31st save for Arizona.

Seiya Suzuki tripled and scored the first run for Chicago. Javier Assad (3-3) pitched the first 5⅓ innings, giving up seven hits while walking one with no strikeouts.