

## Effort to tow burning oil tanker halted

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Salvagers abandoned an initial effort to tow away a burning oil tanker in the Red Sea targeted by Yemen's Houthi rebels as it "was not safe to proceed," a European Union naval mission said Tuesday, leaving the Sounion stranded and its 1 million barrels of oil at risk of spilling.

While a major spill has yet to occur, the incident threatens to become one of the worst yet in the Iranian-backed rebels' campaign that has disrupted the \$1 trillion in goods that pass through the Red Sea each year over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. It also has halted some aid shipments to conflict-ravaged Sudan and Yemen.

"The private companies responsible for the salvage operation have concluded that the conditions were not met to conduct the towing operation and that it was not safe to proceed," the EU's Operation Aspides mission said, without elaborat-

ing. "Alternative solutions are now being explored by the private companies."

The EU mission declined to answer questions from The Associated Press about the announcement, other than to say its "assets have been engaged in protecting the tugs involved." The safety issue could be the fire burning aboard the vessel. Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC taken Tuesday afternoon and analyzed by the AP showed the Sounion still ablaze.

The U.S. State Department has warned that a spill from the Sounion could be "four times the size of the Exxon Valdez disaster" in 1989 off Alaska.

Meanwhile, there's the threat of attacks by the Houthis, who on Monday targeted two other oil tankers traveling through the Red Sea. The Houthis initially attacked the Greek-flagged Sounion tanker on Aug. 21 with small arms fire, projectiles and a drone boat. A French destroyer operating as part of Operation Aspides rescued its

crew of 25 Filipinos and Russians, as well as four private security personnel, after they abandoned the vessel and took them to nearby Djibouti.

Last week, the Houthis released footage showing they planted explosives on board the Sounion and ignited them in a propaganda video, something the rebels have done before in their campaign.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels as well.

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the U.K. to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have

little or no connection to the conflict, including some bound for Iran.

There are no American vessels known to be in the Red Sea at the moment as the EU mission has taken charge after the Sounion attack. A U.S. defense official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss information not made public, said the American military has not been asked and has no role in the cleanup or the towing of the Sounion.

The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower recently served a monthslong deployment in the Red Sea, facing the most intense, continuous combat the U.S. Navy has seen since World War II while fighting against the Houthis.

The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, along with its carrier groups, are in the Gulf of Oman to counter a threatened Iranian retaliation against Israel over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

## Cambodia says China is gifting its navy 2 warships

*Associated Press*

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Cambodia's Defense Ministry said Wednesday that China is giving its navy two warships of the type it has had docked for months at a strategically important base being expanded with Beijing's funding, which has raised concerns of China establishing a permanent naval presence on the Gulf of Thailand.

Ministry spokeswoman Maly Socheata told The Associated Press that China would give Cambodia two newly built

Type 56 corvettes, smaller vessels typically used for coastal patrols, next year at the earliest.

She would not comment on reports that China also planned to hand over to Cambodia newly expanded facilities at Ream Naval Base, including a lengthy new pier capable of accommodating much larger naval vessels than Cambodia has in its own fleet. Maly did say the final phase of construction would soon be completed.

The United States and others have expressed concerns about

China's navy establishing a base at Ream, which would give it easy access to the Malacca Strait, a critical shipping route between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Those concerns grew after two Type 56 corvettes docked at the newly built pier in December, and have maintained a presence there on-and-off ever since.

Cambodia has said one of the reasons the Chinese corvettes have been there for so long was that it was considering similar warships for its own navy, and

for training.

Maly said the two corvettes being given to Cambodia, the Type 56C variant, came after Cambodia requested China's support.

"It is in the aim of strengthening the capacity and ability of Cambodia to protect and maintain peace, stability, security as well as for supporting search and rescue operations and other humanitarian activities," she said.

China's Foreign Affairs Ministry would not comment on the ships.

# S. Korea: North again launches balloons

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea says it has detected suspected trash-carrying balloons launched by North Korea, in the latest round of a Cold War-style psychological warfare between the war-divided rivals.

The metropolitan government of Seoul, South Korea's capital, issued text alerts Wednesday saying that objects likely to be North Korean balloons were spotted in regions north of the city. It advised people to stay indoors and beware of objects dropping from the sky.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the direction of winds suggested that the balloons could drift into the

northern part of Gyeonggi Province, near Seoul. It advised people to report to the police or military if they see fallen balloons and not to touch them.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

North Korea in recent weeks has flown thousands of balloons toward the South to drop waste paper, cloth scraps and cigarette butts, in what it described as a retaliation against South Korean civilian activists flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border. North Korea is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its authoritarian leadership and the third-generation ruler Kim Jong Un.

Trash carried by at least one North Korean balloon fell on the South Korean presidential compound in July, raising concerns about the vulnerability of key South Korean facilities. Officials said the balloon contained no dangerous material and no one was hurt.

South Korea, in response to the North Korean balloons, has activated its front-line loudspeakers to blast broadcasts of propaganda messages and K-pop songs.

The tit-for-tat Cold War-style campaigns are adding to the tensions fueled by North Korea's growing nuclear ambitions and the South's expansion of joint military exercises with the United States.

## US military should model messaging of quick-acting Ukraine, study says

**BY JOHN VANDIVER**

*Stars and Stripes*

Ukrainian efforts at countering Russian disinformation campaigns have seen success because their troops aren't bogged down by an overly cautious U.S.-style chain of command, according to a new report that suggests the American military needs to loosen up.

Fear of embarrassing publicity if communication efforts go wrong is one of the driving factors that is holding back the U.S. military, the Rand Corp. said in a study of Ukrainian communication tactics released Tuesday.

"The result of such concerns over risk is that senior (U.S.) government leaders and military commanders often implement cumbersome approval processes that slow response times and are emblematic of a reluctance to take risks in implementing programs," the report said.

By contrast, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's flexibility enabled it to give various outside communication specialists control of its account on Twitter, now known as X, which was a key part of its success in attracting a large audience, Rand said.

"The United States will need to assess its own doctrine, training, and wargaming efforts to ensure it is able to counter disinformation during conflict," Rand said.

A Ukrainian officer supporting his defense ministry's communication efforts told Rand that their approach was "trust based" and that it freed troops to "leverage soldier creativity."

The U.S. military should learn from the Ukrainian experience, which put a premium on the value of loose coordination to ensure speed in countering Russian propaganda, Rand said.

"However, U.S. government communication efforts are notoriously risk averse and involve significant bureaucratic approval processes," Rand said. "Senior U.S. government leaders must be willing to accept risk and allow communicators to quickly (without obtrusive senior leader approval chains) create unique, humorous, and engaging content."

For Ukraine, an aggressive communication campaign that called out false Kremlin narratives in the run-up to Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 has carried on throughout the conflict. The effort has helped galvanize international support for Ukraine, whose military relies heavily on Western aid.

Russia has produced large volumes of false content targeted at Ukrainians and global audiences, with the aim of undermining international backing. The Russian disinformation campaign has included deepfake videos of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urging Ukrainians to surrender.

The Ukrainian response has involved a wide array of players, ranging from Zelenskyy himself to Ukrainian social media influencers who have gained international traction.

"The Ukrainian military has also pursued a similar approach with its own social media, with individual soldiers posting directly," Rand said.

## Pentagon: Navy sailor detained in Venezuela

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Navy sailor has been detained in Venezuela after traveling there unauthorized on personal business, the Pentagon said Wednesday. The enlisted sailor was detained last week by Venezuelan law enforcement, two defense officials said.

One of the officials said the sailor has been in Venezuelan custody since on or about Aug. 30.

"The U.S. Navy is looking into this and working closely with the State Department," the Pentagon said in a statement.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details not made public, referred to the State Department for an update on the sailors' status.

One of the officials said the service member was neither on official travel nor did they have authorized leave to visit Venezuela.

The detention follows a similar disappearance earlier this year when a U.S. Army soldier was arrested after traveling to Russia to visit his girlfriend.

Staff Sgt. Gordon Black, 34, is still in Russia and was sentenced in June to three years and nine months in prison after his girlfriend accused him of stealing from her.

Black remains an active duty member of the U.S. Army but was placed in confined civilian authority status in May, which is a non-pay status, the Army said in a statement to the AP.

# Ex-NY governors' aide charged with being China agent

*Associated Press*

A former aide to two New York governors was charged Tuesday with acting as an illegal agent of the Chinese government who used her state positions to subtly advance Beijing's agenda in exchange for financial benefits worth millions of dollars.

Linda Sun, who held numerous posts in New York state government, including deputy chief of staff for Gov. Kathy Hochul and deputy diversity officer for former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, was arrested Tuesday morning along with her husband, Chris Hu, at their \$4 million home on Long Island.

Federal prosecutors said Sun, at the request of Chinese officials, blocked representatives of the Taiwanese government from having access to the governor's office and shaped New York governmental messaging to align with the priorities of the Chinese government, among other things.

In return, her husband got

help for his business activities in China—a financial boost that prosecutors said allowed the couple to buy their multimillion-dollar property in Manhasset, N.Y., a condominium in Hawaii for \$1.9 million, and luxury cars including a 2024 Ferrari, the indictment said.

If true, the allegations show that Chinese authorities were able to gain influence at the highest levels of state government in New York for nearly a decade.

"As alleged, while appearing to serve the people of New York as Deputy Chief of Staff within the New York State Executive Chamber, the defendant and her husband actually worked to further the interests of the Chinese government and the CCP," United States Attorney Breon Peace said, using the acronym for the Chinese Communist Party. "The illicit scheme enriched the defendant's family to the tune of millions of dollars."

Sun and Hu pleaded not guilty.

# Judge rejects Trump's request to intervene in hush money conviction

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — A federal judge on Tuesday swiftly rejected Donald Trump's request to intervene in his New York hush money criminal case, spurning the former president's attempt at an end-run around the state court where he was convicted and is set to be sentenced in two weeks.

U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein's ruling — just hours after Trump's lawyers asked him to weigh the move — upends the Republican presidential nominee's plan to move the case to federal court so that he could seek to have his conviction overturned in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's presidential immunity ruling.

Trump's lawyers challenged the decision, filing a notice of appeal late Tuesday in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Trump and his lawyers "will continue to fight to move this Hoax into federal court where it should be put out of its misery once and for all," his campaign spokesperson, Steven Cheung, said in a statement.

Hellerstein, echoing his denial of Trump's pretrial bid to move the case, said the defense

failed to meet the high burden of proof for changing jurisdiction and that Trump's conviction for falsifying business records involved his personal life, not official actions that the Supreme Court ruled are immune from prosecution.

In a four-page ruling, Hellerstein wrote that nothing about the high court's July 1 ruling affected his previous conclusion that hush money payments at issue in Trump's case "were private, unofficial acts, outside the bounds of executive authority."

Hellerstein sidestepped a defense complaint that Trump's state court trial had been plagued by "bias, conflicts of interest, and appearances of impropriety," writing that he "does not have jurisdiction to hear Mr. Trump's arguments concerning the propriety of the New York trial."

The Manhattan district attorney's office, which prosecuted Trump's case, declined comment. The office sent a letter to the trial judge, Juan M. Merchan, objecting to Trump's effort to delay post-trial decisions in the case while he was seeking to have the U.S. District Court in Manhattan step in.

# Trump ordered to stop playing Hayes' music at rallies

*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

ATLANTA — A federal judge has ordered Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump to stop using the music of Isaac Hayes during his campaign to regain the White House, although not totally muting the former president.

Judge Thomas Thrash Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, said in a ruling Tuesday neither Trump nor his campaign can use the song, "Hold On, I'm

Coming," without having the proper license from the Hayes estate.

"(The Hayes Estate) has a right to exercise ownership rights," Thrash said of his preliminary injunction.

"Donald Trump is barred from ever playing the music of Isaac Hayes again," said Isaac Hayes III, who runs his father's estate. "I couldn't ask for a better decision. A lot of artists are not often in this position to stand up for their copyright. But I al-

ways want to make sure that we are able to protect my father's legacy."

But in a case he called a "muddle," Thrash denied a request by the Hayes estate to force the Trump campaign to take down any previously recorded uses of the song.

On the steps of the Richard B. Russell Federal Building, both sides claimed victory.

"We are very pleased with the court's decision," said James L. Walker Jr., the lead attorney for

the Hayes family. "Donald Trump has been told he cannot use the music of Isaac Hayes without a license. That was our number one goal."

Trump's attorney Ronald Coleman said he was pleased with the outcome and not interested in "annoying or hurting anyone."

"We're very gratified that the court recognized the First Amendment issues at stake and didn't order a takedown of existing videos," he said.



# Deaths, injuries reported in shooting at Georgia school

*Associated Press*

WINDER, Ga. — The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said Wednesday that four people were killed and at least nine were injured in a shooting at a high school outside of Atlanta.

Students scrambled for shelter in the football stadium as officers swarmed the campus and parents raced to find out if their children were safe.

One suspect was in custody, the Barrow County Sheriff's Office said. Shortly before 10:30 a.m., "officers from multiple

law enforcement agencies and Fire/EMS personnel were dispatched to the high school in reference to a reported active shooting," the sheriff's office statement said.

"Casualties have been reported, however details on the number or their conditions is not available at this time," the statement added.

At a news conference, Barrow County Sheriff Jud Smith declined to give additional details about those injured in the shooting.

"What you see behind us is an evil thing," Smith said, standing outside the school.

Helicopter video from WSB-TV showed dozens of police and emergency vehicles surrounding Apalachee High School in Barrow County, about 40 miles northeast of Atlanta.

Traffic going to the school was backed up for more than a mile as parents tried to get to their children there. Students had only started the school year a little over a month ago before the shooting Wednesday.

# Ukraine foreign minister resigns

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, one of Ukraine's most recognizable faces on the international stage, submitted his resignation Wednesday ahead of an expected major government reshuffle.

Russian strikes, meanwhile, killed seven people in a western Ukraine city, a day after one of the deadliest missile attacks since the war began.

Kuleba, 43, didn't give a reason for stepping down. His resignation will be discussed by lawmakers at their next session, parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk said on his Facebook page.

Four other Cabinet ministers tendered their resignations late Tuesday, making the Cabinet reshuffle likely the biggest since Russia's February 2022 invasion.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy indicated last week that a reshuffle was imminent, with the war poised to enter a critical stage and as its 1,000-day mark looms in November.

He said Wednesday that Ukraine needs "new energy, and that includes in diplomacy." He said during a Kyiv news conference with visiting Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris that he couldn't announce any replacements yet because he didn't know whether the candidates would accept his invitation to join the government.

Zelenskyy needs to keep up Ukraine's morale amid the grinding war of attrition with its bigger neighbor and steel the country's resolve for what will be another hard winter.

# US charges Hamas head, others linked to Oct. 7 attack on Israelis

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department announced criminal charges Tuesday against Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and other senior militants in connection with the Oct. 7, 2023, rampage in Israel, marking the first effort by American law enforcement to formally call out the masterminds of the attack.

The seven-count criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City includes charges such as conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization resulting in death, conspiracy to murder U.S. nationals and conspiracy to finance terrorism. It also accuses Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah of providing financial support, weapons, including rockets, and military supplies to Hamas for use in attacks.

The impact of the case may be mostly symbolic given that Sinwar is believed to be hid-

ing in tunnels in Gaza and the Justice Department says three of the six defendants are believed now to be dead. But officials have said additional actions are expected as part of a broader effort to target a militant group that the United States designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997 and that over the decades has been linked to a series of deadly attacks on Israel, including suicide bombings.

The complaint was originally filed under seal in February to give the U.S. time to try to take into custody then-Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and other defendants, but it was unsealed Tuesday after Haniyeh's death in July and other developments in the region lessened the need for secrecy, the Justice Department said.

"The charges unsealed today are just one part of our effort to target every aspect of Hamas' operations," Attorney General Merrick Garland said

in a video statement. "These actions will not be our last."

The charges come as the White House has said it is developing a new cease-fire and hostage deal proposal with its Egyptian and Qatari counterparts to try to bring about an agreement between Israel and Hamas to end the nearly 11-month war in Gaza.

A U.S. official, who was not authorized to talk publicly about the case and spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press there was no reason to believe the charges would affect the ongoing negotiations.

National security spokesman John Kirby said the recent "executions" of six hostages, including one American, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, by Hamas underscore "the sense of urgency" in the talks.

"We are investigating Hersh's murder, and each and every one of the brutal murders of Americans, as acts of terrorism," Garland said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Crime lab upgrades help make arrest in cold case

**GA** LAFAYETTE — A 63-year-old man has been arrested in Alabama in the 2000 murder of a northwest Georgia woman.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation and the Walker County Sheriff's Office announced on Friday that they have charged Clarence D. George with murder and aggravated assault in the June 2000 death of Julie Ann McDonald.

McDonald, a pharmacist, was found stabbed to death in her home in LaFayette, Ga., about 25 miles south of Chattanooga.

In a Friday news conference, officials said a combination of better crime lab technology and traditional police work had allowed them to conclude that George had killed McDonald.

### Explosion levels home, killing teen, injuring 5

**LA** RAGLEY — Investigators are trying to determine the cause of an explosion that destroyed a southwest Louisiana home, killing a teenage boy from Alabama and injuring five other people.

Louisiana State Fire Marshal Bryan J. Adams said the explosion happened Saturday morning. Firefighters arrived to find the house burning. The explosion leveled the house, throwing debris for some distance and seriously damaging nearby vehicles and a metal outbuilding.

Killed was Deuce Barrere, 16, of Theodore, Ala., local news outlets reported. Five other people were taken to hospitals including Barrere's older sister and mother. Adams said a toddler who was in the house was

not injured and is being cared for by relatives.

"This is an unimaginable tragedy for this family and community," Adams said in a statement.

### Suspect arrested in shooting near high school

**OH** EUCLID — A 15-year-old suspect has been arrested in a shooting that killed another teenager and wounded four others near an Ohio high school campus about an hour after a football game, authorities said.

Police in the Cleveland suburb of Euclid said Sunday that investigators had identified the lone suspect as the 15-year-old male. He was taken into custody at about 8 p.m. Saturday at a Euclid home and was taken to the Cuyahoga County juvenile detention center, police said.

Police also identified the teenager killed in the gunfire at about 10:15 p.m. Friday near the Euclid High School campus as 17-year old Sincere Rowdy of Euclid. Four other youths said to be 16 or 17 years old were wounded and taken to hospitals.

Police said their names wouldn't be released.

"We ask that you keep all of the families and friends forever affected by this horrible tragedy in your thoughts and prayers," police said in a statement.

### One teen dead in shooting outside fair

**MI** NOVI — Two teenagers were shot, one fatally, just outside the Michigan State Fair in what police described late Saturday as an isolated incident.

Police in the Detroit suburb of

Novi, where the fair is held, said gunshots were reported just before 10 p.m. Saturday.

The shooting took place in the fair's parking lot and was initially described as an active shooter situation, prompting several law enforcement agencies to respond. Authorities later deemed it an isolated crime.

Both victims, 14-year-old teenage boys, had arrived at the fair with friends. Investigators said they believed the shooting stemmed from an argument in recent days.

### Human remains found in 1993 ID'd as SC man

**IN** GREENWOOD — Human remains discovered 31 years ago south of Indianapolis have been identified as a man from South Carolina, authorities said.

Relatives of Michael Benjamin Davis said they had lost contact with him in the late 1980s, the Johnson County coroner's office said.

DNA testing and genealogy work helped scientists determine the identity of the remains found in 1993 at what is now a golf course in Greenwood, Ind., the coroner's office said in a written statement Sunday.

"Although this case has long been suspected of having been a homicide, the cause and manner of death have been ruled undetermined unless more information is discovered," the coroner's office said.

### Police: 11-year-old shot, killed former mayor

**LA** MINDEN — An 11-year-old boy is suspected of using two guns to fatally shoot a woman and her father, an 82-year-old man who

once served as mayor, city council member and deputy sheriff in Louisiana, police said.

Minden Police Chief Jared McIver told local news outlets that the child confessed to the killings while being questioned with an adult relative present. Joe Cornelius Sr., 82, and his daughter, Keisha Miles, 31, were found Sunday morning with multiple gunshot wounds.

Officials haven't said how the boy, who is in custody, was related to the victims.

Cornelius was a longtime member of the Minden city council who was appointed mayor in 2013 after the previous mayor died. He was also a former sheriff's deputy and marshal. A pillar of the town's Black community, Cornelius was a former funeral home worker who had run programs for youth and helped launch Black history observations.

### 1 dead, 2 missing after boat accident

**CT** OLD SAYBROOK — One person was found dead and two were missing after their motorboat hit a jetty and crashed, authorities in Connecticut said Tuesday.

A 31-foot boat carrying nine people crashed at about 9:15 p.m. Monday in Old Saybrook, Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said in a statement. Officers from DEEP, the Coast Guard and several other agencies responded and found the half-sunken boat near a marina.

One man was found dead on the boat and six people including the boat's captain were taken to a hospital, DEEP said.

— From wire reports

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# Tiafoe, Fritz set for all-American semi

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Frances Tiafoe and Taylor Fritz set up an all-American semifinal at the U.S. Open with victories Tuesday, guaranteeing the United States a man in the title match at the country's Grand Slam tournament for the first time in 18 years.

The 20th-seeded Tiafoe made it to the final four at Flushing Meadows for the second time in three years when his quarterfinal opponent, Grigor Dimitrov, stopped playing because of an injury in the fourth set. Tiafoe was leading 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 4-1 with midnight approaching when Dimitrov retired from the match, providing an anticlimactic ending to a contest that was not necessarily of the highest quality.

"It's not the way I want to get through," Tiafoe said, "but obviously happy to get through. Another semifinal here. Incredible."

Just one glimpse of the sort of uneven play from both: Dimitrov held three set points in the

tiebreaker at 6-3. On the first, he double-faulted. On the second, he double-faulted again. On the third, Tiafoe double-faulted, handing over that set.

Hours earlier, Fritz advanced in a far more satisfying way, watching one last errant forehand from his higher-ranked, more-accomplished opponent land wide. Fritz dropped his neon-colored racket, clenched both fists and screamed, "Come on!"

He gathered himself and his equipment, walked to the net for a hug with No. 4 Alexander Zverev, who twice was a Grand Slam runner-up, then stepped to the center of Arthur Ashe Stadium, spread his arms wide and yelled again, "Come on!"

After years of climbing the rankings, of becoming the top American man in tennis, of coming close to making a breakthrough, Fritz finally came through at home, beating Zverev 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3) to reach a major semifinal for the first time.

The 12th-seeded Fritz, a 26-

year-old from California, entered the day with an 0-4 record in Slam quarterfinals.

Now, on Friday, he will take on longtime friend Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland who lost to eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz in the 2022 U.S. Open semis.

Fritz holds a 6-1 head-to-head edge over Tiafoe as pros.

"It's the biggest match of me and Taylor's life. We've known each other for so long. I've been playing against him since (14-and-under tournaments)," Tiafoe said during an on-court interview. "So to be able to play him here ... is going to be awesome. I know we're two Americans, but I hope you're all with me come Friday."

The Fritz-Tiafoe showdown is the first semifinal between two American men at any major since 2005, when Andre Agassi defeated Robby Ginepri in New York.

No American man has won a Grand Slam singles trophy since Andy Roddick triumphed at the U.S. Open in 2003; Roddick was

the last man from the United States in the U.S. Open final, losing to Roger Federer in 2006.

Dimitrov, who was seeded No. 9, had played a five-setter in the fourth round and appeared to be fading late in the third set against Tiafoe, grabbing his left hamstring, walking gingerly between points and hitting serves much slower than earlier in the evening. After that set, Dimitrov was visited by a trainer and then headed to the locker room for treatment.

He returned for the fourth set but wasn't able to move properly and eventually quit. Dimitrov, a 33-year-old from Bulgaria who has appeared in three major semifinals, wouldn't say afterward exactly what was wrong, only that it was an accumulation of things.

"Just a disappointing moment for me," Dimitrov said. "I need to reassess a couple of things."

The other men's quarterfinals being played Wednesday: No. 1 Jannik Sinner vs. No. 5 Daniil Medvedev, and No. 10 Alex de Minaur vs. No. 25 Jack Draper.

## Navarro reaches first Slam semi, will play Sabalenka

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Emma Navarro's first Grand Slam semifinal will come at the U.S. Open against Aryna Sabalenka, someone trying to win her second major trophy of the year and third overall.

Navarro, an American who is seeded 13th, used a stunning turnaround to grab the last six games of her quarterfinal against Paula Badosa for a 6-2, 7-5 victory at Flushing Meadows on Tuesday, following up her upset of defending champion Coco Gauff.

"Sometimes you're out in the court, and you can kind of picture yourself playing a third set. When I was out there, I didn't picture myself playing a third

set," despite being down 5-1 in the second, Navarro said. "I felt like ... I could come back and do it in two."

Sure did.

There was no such drama in No. 2 Sabalenka's 6-1, 6-2 win against No. 7 Zheng Qinwen, the gold medalist at the Paris Olympics last month, in a rematch of Sabalenka's victory in the Australian Open final.

Sabalenka, a 26-year-old from Belarus, displayed a typically powerful performance to get into the semifinals in New York for the fourth year in a row. In 2023, she was the runner-up to Gauff.

She is trying to become the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to win the hard-

court major titles at the Australian Open and U.S. Open. Sabalenka defeated Zheng in January for a second consecutive title at Melbourne Park.

Navarro was three points from having to go to a third set against Badosa but won the next four points to stay alive, starting a stretch in which she captured 24 of the match's last 28 points.

"Things weren't looking great there in the second set, but just tried to be really tough, stick in there, make her hit one more ball," Navarro said. "I felt like if I could scrap out a few longer points, maybe put some pressure on her, I felt like I could come back and maybe close it out in two sets. Happy with how I was able to do that."

Navarro had never even won a match in the main draw of her home major before this year.

Badosa described herself as a "disaster" while dealing with the pressure of trying to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

"I never had the momentum in this match. I played four or five games OK. It was 5-1, but I never felt myself on the court," Badosa said. "I lost, I don't know, 20 points almost in a row. It's very weird for me because I'm quite a consistent player, so I wasn't expecting that either."

Navarro also beat Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon before losing to eventual runner-up Jasmine Paolini in the next round, a 6-2, 6-1 rout in less than an hour.



# Thomas not selected for Presidents Cup

Associated Press

Justin Thomas was left off an American team for the first time since 2016 when Presidents Cup captain Jim Furyk went with the next six players in the team standings, a list that included Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley.

International captain Mike Weir also faced tough choices to round out his 12-player roster on Tuesday, none greater than leaving two of his fellow Canadians, Nick Taylor and Adam Hadwin, off the team for the Sept. 27-30 matches at Royal Montreal.

Canada will have three players on the International team, made up of countries from everywhere outside Europe.

Thomas had the longest active streak among Americans playing the Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup. He relied on a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup last year when he didn't qual-

ify for the PGA Tour's postseason. This time, he reached the Tour Championship but was No. 19 in the U.S. standings.

Furyk took two players rated above him, former British Open champion Brian Harman and Max Homa, even though neither made it to the Tour Championship and both have been in pronounced slumps all summer.

His other picks were Sam Burns, Tony Finau and Russell Henley, who joins Sahith Theegala as the only American on the 12-man team who has never played in a Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup.

"There are a bunch of guys that I would want on this team. It was a difficult decision with JT, definitely a difficult call to make," Furyk said. "But as a captain, you're trying to make the best decision, put the best 12 guys together, fit the puzzle pieces together, the pairings together."

Thomas has a 17-7-4 record in both cups dating to his debut in 2017 at the Presidents Cup.

Weir selected three Canadians — Corey Connors, Taylor Pendrith and Mackenzie Hughes — along with Si Woo Kim of South Korea, Min Woo Lee of Australia and Christian Bezuidenhout of South Africa.

Hughes was rated below Taylor and Hadwin and did not reach the BMW Championship. He was left off the last Presidents Cup team, even though Hughes is known for his putting and was a member at Quail Hollow, where it was held.

Weir began to choke up when talking about having to call Taylor and Hadwin with the bad news. Taylor etched his spot in Canadian lore when he won the Canadian Open last summer with an 80-foot eagle putt, and then followed that by

winning the Phoenix Open in February.

"I respect those guys, I love those guys. They're like brothers, they're Canadians," Weir said. "The toughest part of being a captain were those calls. I have a lot of respect for them and even have more respect for them now the way they handled it."

The six qualifiers for the International team were Hideki Matsuyama, Jason Day, Tom Kim, Sungjae Im, Byeong Hun An and Adam Scott, the 44-year-old Australian who will be playing in his 11th straight Presidents Cup.

Scott has never been on a winning side. There was tie in his 2003 debut in South Africa, and the Americans have won the last nine in a row.

The six Americans who qualified were Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele, Collin Morikawa, Wyndham Clark, Patrick Cantlay and Theegala.

## Colorado's Sanders praises rival Rhule before Nebraska game

Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A year ago, Deion Sanders made the matchup with fellow coach Matt Rhule and Nebraska personal.

This season, there's nothing but praise.

The Colorado coach commended his rival days before the Buffaloes travel to Lincoln, Neb., for the final meeting between the teams for the foreseeable future. Sanders said he feels like the two are part of the same coaching fraternity since they arrived around the same time and both were tasked with turning around programs.

Both coaches hit rocky patches in Year 1 — Sanders and the Buffaloes finishing 4-8, while Rhule and the Cornhuskers went 5-7.

"I have a ton of respect for Matt Rhule," Sanders said Tuesday during his weekly

news conference. "He's in, I call it, our class of coaches. ... So I root for that class of head coaches that came in that year. He was a professional, did a phenomenal job, maybe not the job that he aspired to do, but he has a ton of experience, and I love what he's accomplished in his college coaching career."

That's quite a contrast from last year, when the Buffaloes' theme for Nebraska week was, "This is personal." It was an ode to the history of the rivalry and of the Buffaloes taking note of critical comments out of Lincoln that spring. What drew the Buffaloes' ire, in particular, was Rhule speaking about how excited he was to coach the players he inherited when he took over the program while others appeared more anxious about players arriving through the transfer portal.

Things heated up early last

September as Shedeur Sanders led Colorado to a 36-14 win over Nebraska. Before the game, Shedeur Sanders took offense when Rhule gathered his players during pregame warmups on the Buffaloes' mid-field logo. Sanders went over and broke up the huddle.

On Monday, Rhule deflected a question about whether this game was any sort of culture clash.

"I think they're a competitive culture," said Rhule, whose team beat UTEP 40-7 behind prized recruit Dylan Raiola's big day. "They go recruit and get the best players they can get. They do well in school. They don't get in trouble off the field and they compete. I respect that with what they do."

Colorado and Nebraska were longtime rivals when both were in some version of the Big

12. The Cornhuskers moved to the Big Ten in 2011 and the Buffaloes bolted to the Pac-12. Colorado returned to the Big 12 this season.

Deion Sanders has started preparing his team for the noise that awaits from the sea of red inside the stadium. Sanders also said long snapper Camden Dempsey, whom he refers to as "the Governor," addressed the team.

"I'm pretty sure you're not going to see anybody on the team wearing red anywhere this week, because he politely allowed us to know that's a 'no-no,'" said Sanders, whose team beat North Dakota State 31-26 in the season opener.

"I love it. I think that's what college football is all about, whether we're in the same conferences or not. This is a tremendous rivalry, and I look forward to it."

# Dodgers win in Ohtani's return to Anaheim

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Shohei Ohtani hit an RBI triple in his first regular-season game back at Angel Stadium, and he scored on Mookie Betts' three-run homer in the 10th inning of the Los Angeles Dodgers' 6-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

Ohtani went 1 for 4 with his tying triple in the third inning after the two-way superstar received a warm welcome back to the stadium where he excelled for the Angels over the past six years. Ohtani won two AL MVP awards and a Rookie of the Year trophy while redefining what's possible in modern baseball, but he couldn't lead the long-struggling Halos to a winning season.

"The biggest part of all this is being able to play at this stadium in front of the Anaheim fans," Ohtani said through his interpreter. "That was the part that was special for me. ... Most importantly, it's about winning the game, and I'm glad we won."

The Dodgers already led 3-2 in the 10th on Miguel Rojas' RBI single before the Angels intentionally walked their former star slugger to get to Betts, who drove the next pitch from Roansy Contreras (2-4) over the fence in left.

"With Shohei doing what Shohei always does, I understand their perspective," Betts said. "So I was just trying to get a good pitch to hit."

Ron Washington was the first opposing manager to intentionally walk the batter in front of Betts, an eight-time All-Star and former AL MVP, since 2016.

"You're picking poison when you deal with the first three hitters," Washington said. "I wasn't going to let Ohtani swing there, and I have all the respect in the world for Mookie Betts. I just was hoping Contreras could make a pitch and get us a ground ball."

Ohtani got more cheers than

boos from a sellout crowd featuring thousands of blue-clad Dodgers fans when he stepped to the plate as the game's first hitter. The Angels didn't give him a major tribute, only posting a graphic with a list of his top accomplishments with the franchise he chose to be his first major league club in late 2017.

**Orioles 9, White Sox 0:** Cade Povich struck out 10 while pitching into the eighth inning, and host Baltimore took a big early lead on its way to a rout over Chicago, sending the White Sox to their 12th consecutive loss.

Chicago dropped to 31-109 and became the first team since 1900 with at least three losing streaks of 12 games in the same season, according to Sportradar. The 1889 Louisville Colonels and 1899 Cleveland Spiders also did it.

**Nationals 6, Marlins 2:** Keibert Ruiz was a triple shy of the cycle, Jacob Young also had three hits and visiting Washington beat Miami.

Patrick Corbin (5-12) continued his recent stretch of solid starts with 5⅓ innings of two-run ball with eight strikeouts, and Joey Gallo hit a three-run homer for the Nationals, who are 8-0 against the Marlins this season after going 6-26 against them the previous two seasons.

**Braves 3, Rockies 0:** Chris Sale reached 200 strikeouts for the first time since 2019 and earned the 16th win of his comeback season, pitching seven strong innings to lead host Atlanta past Colorado.

Sale (16-3) earned his sixth straight win, allowing six hits and fanning nine to push his season total to 206, his most since he had 219 with the Red Sox before a series of injuries derailed his career. He became the first left-hander in Braves franchise history to post 200 Ks in a season.

**Mets 7, Red Sox 2:** David Peterson struck out a career-high 11 on his 29th birthday and

Francisco Lindor drove in three runs as host New York beat slumping Boston for its sixth straight victory.

Lindor launched his 30th homer and added a pivotal RBI double, drawing another chorus of "MVP! MVP!" chants from the Citi Field crowd. Pete Alonso and Mark Vientos also went deep for the Mets, who remained a half-game behind Atlanta for the final NL wild card. New York has won 13 of 18 overall.

**Rays 2, Twins 1:** Jeffrey Springs pitched a season-high six innings, Logan Driscoll hit a run-scoring single in his big league debut and host Tampa Bay beat Minnesota.

Spring (2-2) permitted one run and four hits in his seventh start since returning from elbow surgery. He struck out four and walked two.

**Pirates 5, Cubs 0:** Paul Skenes pitched five effective innings while struggling with his location, and visiting Pittsburgh handed Chicago another tough loss.

Skenes (9-2) worked out of bases-loaded jams in the first two innings. The rookie right-hander allowed four hits and walked four, but he struck out six.

**Phillies 10, Blue Jays 9:** Kyle Schwarber's third homer of the game was a go-ahead, three-run drive in the ninth inning, and visiting Philadelphia rallied past Toronto after allowing six runs in the first.

Schwarber hit his 12th leadoff homer of the season and went deep again in the fourth before his blast with no outs in the ninth on the ninth pitch he saw from Chad Green (4-5), a 96 mph fastball. Schwarber finished 5-for-6 with six RBIs and came within a triple of the cycle, adding a double in the third and an RBI single in the seventh.

**Guardians 7, Royals 1:** No. 9 hitter Brayan Rocchio drove in four runs and visiting Cleveland beat Kansas City extending the

Royals' losing streak to a season-high seven.

Since tying Cleveland for the AL Central lead on Aug. 27, the Royals (76-65) have dropped 5½ games behind the Guardians (80-59), who have won five of six. Kansas City maintained a 4½-game lead for the final AL wild card.

**Cardinals 7, Brewers 4 (12):** Michael Siani hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the 12th inning, and visiting St. Louis beat Milwaukee.

Ryan Helsley (7-4) pitched two innings for the win, striking out four. The All-Star closer was going for his 43rd save before Willy Adames hit a two-out RBI double in the 11th for Milwaukee.

**Rangers 7, Yankees 4:** Wyatt Langford hit a game-ending grand slam off All-Star closer Clay Holmes to give host Texas a win over New York and drop the Yankees out of the AL East lead.

Langford hit the first walk-off slam by a Rangers rookie, sending Holmes (2-5) to his major league-high 11th blown save in 40 chances. Texas overcame a 4-1, eighth-inning deficit.

**Athletics 3, Mariners 2:** Seth Brown homered in the fourth inning and hit a game-ending single in the ninth for host Oakland's second straight walk-off win.

Seattle has lost four straight and is 5½ games back for the last AL wild card.

**Diamondbacks 8, Giants 7:** Randal Grichuk hit a two-run homer in the first and a solo drive in the fifth to move within one of 300 for his career, and visiting Arizona held off San Francisco for its seventh straight road win.

Matt Chapman homered in the sixth and Mike Yastrzemski connected to spark a four-run eighth for the Giants. San Francisco threatened against Ryan Thompson, who gave up RBI singles to Jerar Encarnacion and Patrick Bailey.