

NATION AND WORLD

IN BRIEF

The Associated Press

Haze, heat and storms assault US

INDIANAPOLIS – Smoky haze, hot weather and powerful storms brought dangerous and uncomfortable conditions to parts of the U.S. heading into a long July Fourth weekend that typically draws Americans to outdoor gatherings.

In the Midwest, utility crews scrambled Friday to restore electricity a day after a powerful wind storm system moved across Illinois and Indiana.

Utility companies reported that more than 250,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity.

In the South, an excessive heat warning is in place for parts of Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.

And the Environmental Protection Agency is warning that parts of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut could experience “unhealthy” air conditions because of wildfires in Canada.

Ukraine has new weapons in their war

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Ukraine’s military was largely reliant on Soviet-era weaponry, from tanks to artillery to fighter jets.

While that arsenal helped Ukraine fend off an assault on the capital of Kyiv and prevent a total rout in the early weeks of the war, billions of dollars in military assistance has since poured into the country, including more modern Western-made weapons.

Ukraine’s counteroffensive is now in its early stages. It could offer a glimpse of whether and to what extent the newer weapons systems have strengthened Kyiv’s ability to stand up to Russia.

Analysts are cautiously optimistic.

“Ukraine is in a much better position to be able to conduct a combined arms warfare than where they were in the beginning of Russia’s full-scale reinvasion of Ukraine,” George Barros, a Russia analyst for the Center for Strategic International Studies said.

Humira competitors hit drug market

Patients who take the autoimmune disease treatment Humira may see some price relief when several lower-cost, biosimilar versions of the AbbVie drug reach the U.S. market in July.

But lower pharmacy bills may not happen right away for some patients, if at all.

It’ll depend largely on how pharmacy benefit managers and insurers handle the new products.

Biosimilars are lower-cost versions of a biologic drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration after regulators determine that they are highly similar to the original product.

Scientists make biologic drugs from living cells.

Coast Guard poor case handling mullied

The U.S. Coast Guard is apologizing for not taking “appropriate action” years ago when it failed to adequately handle cases of sexual assault and harassment at the service’s Connecticut academy.

The service on Friday also acknowledged it did not widely disclose its six-year internal investigation into dozens of cases from 1988 to 2006.

Two U.S. senators said in a statement the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, which has oversight of the Coast Guard, was not informed of the probe, conducted from 2014 to 2020, until a recent informal briefing with Senate staff.

The Coast Guard says has made improvements to its sexual assault policies.

Bolsonaro barred to run for office

SAO PAULO – Far-right former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has been barred from running for office again until 2030 after a panel of judges concluded that he abused his power and cast unfounded doubts on the country’s electronic voting system.

Friday’s decision upends the 68-year-old’s political future and likely erases any chance for him to regain power.

Five of the seven judges on the nation’s highest electoral court agreed that Bolsonaro used government communication channels to promote his campaign and sowed distrust about the vote.

He can appeal to the Su-

preme Court, though experts say the decision is unlikely to be overturned.

Youths clash with French police

NANTERRE, France – Young rioters are clashing with police and looting stores across France for the fourth straight night of unrest.

The situation appeared to be somewhat calmer Friday

compared to previous nights.

But several cities continued to see violent clashes, including Marseille, Lyon and some Paris suburbs. Looters broke into a gun shop and made off with weapons, and a man was later arrested with a hunting rifle, police said.

The Interior Ministry deployed 45,000 police across the country and ordered a

complete shutdown of all public bus and tram services nationwide for Friday night.

President Emmanuel Macron has appealed to parents to keep children off the streets and blamed social media for fueling unrest.

The protests were triggered Tuesday by the deadly police shooting of a teen. Since then, hundreds have been arrested in the unrest.

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