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MOJAVE DESERT

B-52 crashes after takeoff, 8 die

Bomber was departing Edwards Air Force Base when it went down

By Christopher Weber and Konstantin Toropin
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — A B-52 bomber crashed shortly after takeoff at a U.S. Air Force base in the Mojave Desert and burst into flames Monday, killing all eight people aboard, military officials said.

Aerial footage showed virtu-

ally nothing left of the aircraft that went down around 11:20 a.m. during a routine test mission at Edwards Air Force Base, which is north of Los Angeles. Black smoke rose from a large swath of charred desert near the runway on the base, with emergency vehicles nearby.

Those on the B-52 included government contractors and uniformed military. Aircraft

manufacturer Boeing confirmed Monday evening that two of its employees were on board.

After reviewing footage of the crash, it was determined that no one could have survived, Col. James Hayes, the deputy commander for the 412 test wing at Edwards, said at a news conference.

“We lost eight great Americans,” Hayes said, adding that officials were working to notify their families.

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A U.S. Air Force Boeing B-52 Stratofortress bomber like this one crashed shortly after takeoff in the Mojave Desert on Monday morning, killing all eight aboard. DREAMSTIME/TNS FILE

INGLEWOOD

Iranians seek voice on World Cup stage



Iran midfielder Aria Yousefi goes down as he is held by New Zealand midfielder Joe Bell during the FIFA 2026 World Cup at Los Angeles Stadium in Inglewood on Monday. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. WILL LESTER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some show up just to make a statement, others cheer their team in opener

By Todd Harmonson
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INGLEWOOD — Despite his drive from Las Vegas to join the crowd at Los Angeles Stadium in Inglewood on Monday, Bahador Morady insisted he had no interest in what happened on the field when Iran took on New Zealand in the teams’ opening game of the World Cup.

“I’m not here for this team,” he said and nodded toward the pitch. “I’m here to be the voice of the people of Iran. I’m here because they can’t be heard there.”

Morady was among the many fans who defied the anticipated ban on the “Lion and Sun” flag from before the Islamic revolution in Iran. Some wore it on shirts, essentially daring security officials to make them remove it. Others, such as Morady, simply hid it until they were on the stadium concourse.

There was also a large contingent of Iranian fans who energetically waved the nation’s current flag.

Throw in the occasional Stars and Stripes and the wait-and-see nature of the peace deal between the U.S. and Iran, and the pregame atmosphere at Los Angeles Stadium (rebranded from SoFi Stadium for

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Inside: More coverage on the Iran vs. New Zealand World Cup match and upcoming events. B1

CALIFORNIA

Influencers, campaigns could face more liability

Bill aims to fine paid content creators if they fail to provide disclaimer on social media post

By Linh Tat
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Social media influencers can, as their titles imply, hold a lot of sway.

Political campaigns know this, which is why they court them, at times paying them to promote their candidate or cause.

It’s not illegal. But existing California law requires campaigns to inform content creators that they must include a disclaimer if they’re being paid to say nice things about a candidate, negative things about an opponent or speak in support of or opposition to a ballot measure.

Failure by a campaign committee to notify the paid influencer about their legal obligations, or failure on the part of the influencer to post a disclaimer, could result in enforcement actions by the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission, an independent, nonpartisan body responsible for enforcing political campaign, lobbying and conflict of interest laws.

But the FPPC is limited in what it can hold parties

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CALIFORNIA



Gov. Gavin Newsom, shown on election night in November, on Monday slammed a federal probe into his family. JUSTIN SULLIVAN — GETTY IMAGES

Newsom says Trump behind DOJ probe of him, his wife

Governor contends his possible run for president spurred move

By Charlie Borla
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The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating Gov. Gavin Newsom and first partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, questioning people connected to them, the governor said Monday.

Newsom, in a video message on Monday, accused President Donald Trump, long his political rival, of spurring the federal probe because Newsom, a Democrat, is weighing a run for president in 2028.

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President Donald Trump, left, meets with French President Emmanuel Macron during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit on Monday in Evian-les-Bains, France. JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions on nuclear material, impact of Israel’s attacks on Lebanon remain after U.S.-Iran deal

By Jon Gambrell, Elena Becatoros and Michelle L. Price
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An initial agreement between the United States and Iran to extend their shaky ceasefire inched toward a formal signing, despite questions Monday over the fate of Tehran’s nuclear program and an offensive by Israel in Lebanon that could prolong the fighting and scuttle the deal.

The agreement signed electronically Sunday is meant to provide a meaningful truce in a monthslong war that has killed thousands across the Middle East, including the top leaders of Iran’s theocracy, and raised the prices of fuel, food and other basic goods far beyond the region. But logistical and military chal-

lenges underscored the fragile nature of the deal, which was set for a ceremonial signing Friday in Geneva.

At the core of the pact is a planned reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway whose blockage has choked the supply of the world’s oil and natural gas. Yet even a full reopening would not immediately alleviate the global energy crisis its closure created.

Another potential obstacle concerns Israel, which joined the U.S. in launching the war on Feb. 28, but it is not party to the deal. The Israeli military launched airstrikes Sunday in southern Lebanon, where it is fighting the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group, and the Israeli defense minister said Monday that the

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