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1 US aircraft downed in Iran, 1 in Gulf

Flyer rescued after 1st jet hit by Tehran; at least 1 flyer missing

By Sam Mednick, Konstantin Toropin and Seung Min Kim
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two U.S. military planes were shot down in separate incidents Friday, and while one crew member was rescued in

Iran, the whereabouts of at least one other was unknown — marking a dramatic escalation since the war began nearly five weeks ago.

It was the first time U.S. aircraft had been downed in the conflict and came just two days after President Donald Trump said in a national address that the U.S. has “beaten and completely decimated Iran” and was “going to finish the job, and we’re going to finish it very fast.”

One fighter jet was shot down in Iran, officials said. A U.S. crew

member from that jet was rescued, but a second was missing.

The rescue occurred as the U.S. military was conducting a search operation, a U.S. official and an Israeli official said. Three people familiar also confirmed that a search had been underway. All spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitivity of the situation.

No official details were released.

But the Pentagon notified the House Armed Services Committee that the status of a second service

member is not known.

In an email from the Pentagon obtained by The Associated Press, the U.S. military said it received notification of “an aircraft being shot down” in the Middle East, without providing more details.

Separately, Iranian state media said that a U.S. A-10 attack aircraft had crashed into Persian Gulf after being struck by Iranian defense forces.

Earlier, a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity

to discuss a sensitive military situation, said it was not clear if the aircraft crashed or was shot down or whether Iran was involved. Neither the status of that aircraft’s crew, nor exactly where the aircraft, went down was immediately known.

Those incidents came as Iran fired on targets across the Mideast on Friday, keeping the pressure on Israel and its Gulf Arab neighbors, despite U.S. and Israeli insis-

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Trump store closes temporarily amid war

Crystal Lake shop owner cites low sales linked to Iran conflict

By Angie Leventis Lourgos
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Just a few months after opening, the controversial Trump Truth Store in Crystal Lake has temporarily shut down, citing a drop in sales amid the ongoing Iran war.

In a notice to customers, business owner Lisa Fleischmann posted on Facebook on March 26 that the MAGA-themed shop “is closed until further notice.”

“I am not even making 1/2 of my rent,” she said on the social media site. “I never did this for the money but I don’t know how much longer I can last with paying for all the stuff.”

In an interview with the Tribune, Fleischmann blamed poor sales on the ongoing U.S.-Israeli-led war in Iran, saying business tanked shortly after the military operation began on Feb. 28.

She believes prospective customers are more hesitant to buy or wear pro-Trump merchandise due to the broadly unpopular conflict.

Most Americans disapprove of the war, with 59% saying recent military action there has gone too far, according to an AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released March 25.

“Sales were really slow. It all started with the war. It was dead as a door nail the minute that happened,” Fleischmann said. “I think (customers) are unsure what’s going on. Not everyone. But I think a majority of people are unsure what’s going on. ... And if you wear it, they feel someone might come up to them and ask them questions.”

The store’s abrupt closing has been the latest setback for the

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Children dressed as disciples of Jesus and an angel walk on 18th Street during the annual Good Friday Via Crucis procession in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood. JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Way of the Cross draws crowds on Good Friday

Catholic tradition in Pilsen commemorates Jesus’ crucifixion over 14 stations

By Laura Turbay
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Patricia Orta has been going to Way of the Cross processions in Pilsen since she was about 10 years old.

At the time it didn’t make much sense to her, but now as a mother of a 24-year-old, she finds special

meaning in the way Mary looks up at her dying son on the cross.

During the immigration enforcement actions in Chicago last year she also feared for her son.

“When ICE was coming at first I was like — oh my God, my son is brown, and my son drives now, you know?” said Orta, 50,

who grew up in Pilsen and now works as a middle school teacher there. “I was worried for him and worried for my students.”

Hundreds of people attended the Via Crucis in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood on Good Friday, straining their necks to catch a glimpse of the actor portraying Jesus in the final moments before

his execution. Children too short to see the stage stood on their tip-toes to watch Kevin Reyes, the actor who played the part of Jesus, being whipped.

They gasped at the sight of fake blood. The procession opened with a young boy waving a Mexican flag.

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JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WORTH THE WAIT

White Sox right fielder Tristan Peters is congratulated by teammates after his RBI single in the 10th inning gave the White Sox a 5-4 win over the Blue Jays in their home opener Friday at Rate Field. **Chicago Sports**

Why is Bill Murray rooting for UConn?

Famous Illini fan’s son is an assistant coach for Final Four opponent

By Andrew Carter
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

INDIANAPOLIS — The last time Illinois reached the Final Four, in 2005, the Illini’s best-known fan showed up to the national semifinals looking dapper. Bill Murray, an ardent Chicago and Illinois sports enthusiast, longtime bon vivant, a man of many talents and many roles, had that going for him.

Which was nice.

He donned a rumpled but refined plaid sport coat over a pale orange vest and a brighter orange — Illinois orange — tie, replete with an orange Champaign Country Club hat. The Illini won that night but lost in the championship game against North Carolina,

and 21 years later he still “feels like there were phantom (foul) calls against James Augustine,” Luke Murray said with a laugh.

Luke is the second-oldest of Bill Murray’s six sons. He’s also an assistant coach at Connecticut, which means he’s the reason why his father, for once, will not be cheering on Illinois on Saturday night when it plays in the national semifinals. Indeed, the Illini’s opponent at Lucas Oil Stadium has made things a bit complicated for Bill Murray, though he’s clear about his loyalties.

“Go Huskies!” Murray wrote in a text message to a Tribune reporter earlier this week. And if his son’s UConn team advances to the national championship game Monday night, it will do so at the expense of the father’s Illini. Bill Murray, for one, is accustomed to complex if not disappointing

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